

# DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, February 12, 2015

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## STUMPED

Anger as trees chopped down in park



PAGE 5

## NEW BOSS

Chief executive will face hard decisions



PAGE 9

### Visitors flock to borough's attractions

VISITOR numbers at Dudley's three biggest tourist attractions are up by almost a quarter, as work continues on the £10.1 million regeneration of Castle Hill.

That is aimed at attracting thousands more people to major attractions Dudley Zoo, Dudley Canal Trust and the Black Country Living Museum.

Dudley's tourism chiefs welcomed the news as a boost for the whole of the Black Country.

The biggest increase was at Dudley Zoo, where 290,000 people passed through the gates in 2014. This was up by 25 per cent on 2013's figures.

#### Investment

At Dudley Canal Trust, there was a 23 per cent rise for the last quarter of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013. Visitor numbers for the year were up by 10 per cent.

At the Black Country Living Museum there were 271,467 people visiting the attraction in 2014, 31,000 more than in 2013. This is a rise of around 13 per cent.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These latest figures go to show what impact the multi-million pound investment in the area is having on three world-class visitor attractions."

### Adventures to cost more

PARENTS in Dudley will have to pay more money to send their children to an outdoor activities centre under council plans to meet rising food and fuel bills.

It is the fourth increase in four years for visitors to Astley Burf Outdoor Adventure Centre in Worcestershire.

If the plans are approved, fees for one week's stay at the centre near Stourport will rise from £105 to £107, a four day visit will go up from £85 to £87 and a weekend trip will increase by £1 to £55.

# APOLOGY OVER LETTER ERROR

### Traders pay price for EDL protest

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds was lost in trade as the English Defence League descended on Dudley town centre.

Police and council chiefs were also left counting the cost of Saturday's protest with around £25,000 spent on barriers and cleaning up. Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Roads were closed, shops had to shut and staff lost a day's pay. I don't think that's right, especially when times are so tough."

The town centre was deserted as more than 600 EDL members came from across the country. The potential threat — based on the trouble that broke out at a similar demo in the town in 2010 — forced West Midlands Police to draft in hundreds of extra officers from as far away as Wales.

Protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street, where a 45-minute demonstration was held. The EDL were kept apart from around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism holding a counter-protest in Castle Street.

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson confirmed that 29 demonstrators had been arrested for breaching the peace. Most were released without charge.

• Picture — Page 3

### Hero's statue back on show

THE statue of Dudley's sporting hero Duncan Edwards has been returned to the town's market place.

The statue was in storage during the £6.7 million redevelopment of the market and has been located in New Street. The England and Manchester United player from the Priory Estate died aged 21, as a result of injuries in the Munich air disaster in February 1958, which claimed the lives of seven of his team mates. The statue will be re-dedicated.

### Milestone for mini miracle Harrison



Little Harrison Jordan, of Kingswinford, celebrates his first birthday with mother Melanie and father Tim

'HE'S a strong-willed little man' — those are the words of the proud father of tiny battler Harrison Jordan, who has defied the odds to celebrate his first birthday after being born 11 weeks premature.

Harrison Jordan weighed just one-and-a-half pounds when he was born on February 3 last year and was not expected to survive.

But one year on, he continues to get stronger, crawling around the family home in Ketley Road, Kingswinford, and pulling himself up to his feet. He was all smiles as he received cards and presents from adoring parents Melanie, aged 40, and Tim 45.

Mr Jordan has created a very special gift

for his son — a table with a car painted on



Harrison weighed 1.5lbs

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**Killer sent back to jail after flat blaze**

A CONVICTED killer has been jailed for four years after setting fire to his home in an attempt to take his own life.

Anthony Lewis — who was jailed for 15 years in 1984 for stabbing to death the woman he lived with at the time — decided to end his own life after falling out with his new girlfriend, Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton

Crown Court. Lewis, aged 51, set fire to the sofa and bedding at his ground floor flat in Rainbow Street, Coseley, on October 10.

He went to the home of an 82-year-old woman who lived next door but left without knowing if his warning knocks had been heard, continued Mr Searle. Fire crews quickly extinguished the blaze and the defendant was arrested.

Mr George Jonas, defending, said Lewis was incapable of 'letting go' of a relationship when it was over. Mr Jonas concluded: "He wanted to do himself in at the time and he was reckless about the consequences."

Lewis admitted arson whilereckless as to whether life was endangered and was sent to prison by the Judge Robin Onions, who also lengthened the period on which he

will remain on licence following release by five years.

Judge Onions told him: "You got into an argument and you made the unpleasant threat that you would slit her throat. You then went home and decided to end your own life."

"Anyone who sets fire to their property causes a risk to neighbouring properties, to firemen called out to fight the fire and to passers-by."

**54 Ring and Ride jobs go in cutbacks**

RING-AND-RIDE services across the West Midlands are shedding 54 jobs as budget cuts of £700,000 start to take effect.

West Midlands Special Needs Transport runs the Ring-and-Ride service for elderly and disabled people who cannot use public transport. The jobs will go at the end of March.

Union bosses are in discussions with staff to help them try to find new jobs. In December it was revealed 92 driver and scheduler jobs were at risk as the company tried to cope with a £700,000 cut in its budget.

The charity operates the Ring-and-Ride service across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Around 22,000 people use the service, which offers door-to-door transport for people unable to use buses, trams and trains.

Unite union regional officer Caren Evans said it had been confirmed that 54 people had been made redundant, with 38 workers taking part-time roles or transferring to other roles. Chief executive of West Midlands Special Needs Transport, David Birmingham said those being made redundant

**Variety show to aid hospice**

THE Bostin Black Country Variety Show is on February 27 at Dudley's Station Hotel to raise money for Compton Hospice.

It will be headlined by folk band The Empty Can, who created the local anthem I Vow To Thee Black Country, and features comedian Wayne Beesly, Open Mic UK 2014 finalists Brett Huckfield and Marie Timmins alongside comedy singer Bob Gessey and Black Country poet Steve Bartley, from 6.30pm.

Tickets cost £12, from [www.compton-hospice.org.uk](http://www.compton-hospice.org.uk) or call 01902 774548.

**Bumble bird box**

A NATURE reserve in Dudley hosts a bird boxing making session during the half term holiday. Bumble Hole, off Windmill End, is holding the event on February 18 between 10.30am and 1.30pm. Youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Call (01384) 814100 to book.

**Hospital agency staff cost £600k in a month**

**MORE** than £600,000 was spent on agency staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in just one month, new figures reveal.

The bill for December came as the number of patients attending A&E during the month soared to 8,762, compared with 7,944 in the previous year.

Chief executive Paula Clark said the hospital was working to reduce the number of agency workers used to cover

**Police issue a plea for information**

A MAN exposed himself to a teenage girl near Dudley's Priory ruins, prompting a police appeal for help tracking him down.

Officers say the 17-year-old girl was walking on The Broadway, near the landmark, when the incident happened just before 11am on January 28.

A man, described as aged in his late 20s, exposed himself. The teenager ran to the nearby college where she raised the alarm and police were called.

The man is described as around 5ft 10" tall with a ruddy complexion, a full beard and moustache that was ginger and grey in colour. He was wearing blue flared jeans and a red and blue jacket.

Detective Constable Michelle Phillips, from Dudley's Child Abuse Investigation Unit, said: "The teenager was obviously very upset and shaken by her ordeal. A full area search was conducted by officers but unfortunately the man was not found. Officers continue to search the area for CCTV and make enquiries."

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

staff shortages. She added that it had spent, on average, around £61,000 less each month on agency staff than in the previous financial year.

The total spent during December was £603,240, a Freedom of Information request revealed. Of this £265,704 was spent on medical staff and £264,206 on nursing staff. While £39,133 was spent on other clinical workers and £34,197 on non-clinical staff.

**Skilled**

Ms Clark said: "To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times, we sometimes use agency staff to cover staff shortages."

"These shortages can come about due to unplanned sickness and short-term vacancies, or the need to open extra beds to cope with peaks in demand."

"Despite an increased number of A&E attendances in December 2014 compared to 2013, we were still able to reduce the amount we spent on agency staffing."

The agency staff bill has come under fire from former hospital governor Bill Etheridge, a UKIP Dudley councillor and Euro MP, who said employing agency doctors and nurses was an ineffective use of resources.

"The people in charge are on a large amount of money. It would be nice to think they had the skills as would lead to not having to call in the cavalry," he said

**Couple aim for Crufts success**

Upper Gornal couple Suzanne and Nick Conway are taking nine of their dogs to Crufts. A COUPLE who breed shitzus and Skye terriers have become a regular feature at the annual Crufts dog show.

Suzanne and Nicholas Conway, from Upper Gornal, have exhibited at the canine cascade at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham for more than three years.

This year nine of their dogs have qualified for the event, organised by the Kennel Club, and held at the NEC from March 5 to 8.

Their canine crew includes shitzus Iribis, Pepe, Bella, Enzo, Byron, Bonnie, Dottie,

Gino, along with Skye terrier Dougie. In 2014 they achieved a first place with another Skye terrier.

Mrs Conway, 47, said four of the shitzus were born in January last year in the same litter.

Mrs Conway said the prize money did not come close to covering the cost of breeding and caring for the dogs but it was the prestige attached to winning such a top award that was the biggest motivation.

She added: "It is a real fun day out."

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## Woman is pushed down set of stairs

A 50-year-old pushed his partner down the stairs, breaking her wrist, after they returned home from a pub, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Simon Hardwick hurled various household items at the victim as she lay in pain on the floor, causing severe bruising. She plunged down the stairs after he pulled her round the house by her arms and clothing, said Miss Sarah Allen, prosecuting.

The court was told the woman later told police she still loved the man who had been her partner for seven years.

Miss Satvir Aujla, defendant, said Hardwick from Albert Road, Brierley Hill, was 'very remorseful'.

The defendant, who had received a caution for battering the victim in 2010, pleaded guilty to assaulting her causing actual bodily harm on November 22 last year. He was given an eight month prison sentence suspended under supervision for two years on condition he attends a course on domestic abuse.

Recorder Marcus Tregillus-Davey told him: 'This was a sustained piece of aggression against somebody who was entitled to feel safe in her own home.'

## Offices turn into homes

FORMER council offices in Dudley will be going under the hammer.

The properties in Ednam Road are among 12 sites, which have been deemed surplus to requirements by Dudley Council. The two pairs of semi-detached offices have planning permission to be converted into homes. Other buildings being sold by the council include properties in St James's Road and Priory Court.

In total it is hoped 12 sites will be used to create 90 homes and net the authority £467,000 per year savings.

## Sweeper collision

An elderly man was pulled from a car after it collided with a roadsweeper.

An ambulance crew arrived at the scene around 3.20pm on February 4 after the collision on Ketley Road, Kingswinford. The man was taken to Russells Hall hospital suffering chest pains.

# Training firm to appeal after damning report

TEACHING at a firm running building apprenticeships in the Black Country and Staffordshire has been branded poor.

Students were left with little prospect of finding a job, according to a damning report. Targeted Training Projects Ltd has 160 students at sites in Kingswinford and Cannock.

Ofsted says the quality of teaching and learning is 'consistently poor' and tutors do not pay enough attention to the apprentices. The firm, which has headquarters in

Brierley Hill, was given the lowest possible rating by the inspectors. It is supposed to set students up for careers in the building industry but inspectors found many struggling to get placements during their course.

### Failures

The report lists a catalogue of failures and says major improvements are needed at Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, and at Hemlock Way, Cannock.

Inspector Russell Henry said the proportion

of apprentices who successfully complete their course is 'very low' as they spend too little time in actual employment.

"This means that they are unable to develop and consolidate their skills in real-work situations and that opportunities to assess their competence are insufficient."

He found that most apprentices have 'poor attitudes towards learning'. The report also states: 'Staff do not set high standards or expectations for their apprentices. The quality of teaching and training

is poor and the planning of learning is inadequate. As a result, the majority of apprentices are unsuccessful in attaining their learning goals.'

There were problems with safety in workshops with some apprentices not being supervised using power saws.

General manager Jodie Hawkins said: 'We have appealed against the report and don't feel we are in a position to comment while the appeal is in place. I think the fact we are appealing shows we are not happy.'

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bungalows will replace care home

PLANS to convert a former care home in Sedgley into housing have been given the green light.

Councillors approved the proposals for Arcal Lodge, which closed in controversial circumstances seven years ago.

More than 40 pensioners were forced to move out of the home after losing their battle to save it from closure.

Under Dudley Council's plans the building would be partly demolished, making way for 14 homes in total, featuring a mix of apartments and bungalows.

### War Horse and tunes at museum

TUNES from the First World War will be performed during free shows at Dudley Museum.

CBSO quartet The Stringcredibles will be performing 'Tunes from the Trenches', which is funded by Arts Council England, on February 28 at 10.30am and 12.30pm. Families are encouraged to join in the 50 minute show. The performance includes an excerpt from Michael Morpurgo's novel War Horse. For more details call on (01384) 815571.

### Mayor opens town centre bake shop

THE Mayor of Dudley was on hand to officially open Dudley's new Poundbakery store.

Councillor Margaret Aston cut the ribbon at the opening of the new shop on Dudley High Street, Poundbakery's fourth in a roll out across the West Midlands.

Following violence in 2010, hoardings and metal grills were erected to protect businesses.

There were 29 arrests as around 600 EDL supporters and members of an anti-fascist protest took to the streets.

EDL protesters, many hiding their faces behind masks or scarves, arrived under the banner of fighting plans for a new mosque to be built on land off Hall Street, although national issues dominated their vocal protests.

Steel anti-riot fencing was erected across the historic market place but market traders stayed away to be replaced by row upon row of police officers. A handful of shoppers decided on a trip into town early in the day but quickly hurried away.

Police appeared to outnumber shoppers ten to one as the streets, normally lively with the cries of market traders, were eerily quiet — until the chants of protesters began.

## Protest empties town of shoppers

MANY pubs and shops already struggling to make ends meet were forced to shut on Saturday, costing them thousands in lost trade, when the English Defence League returned to Dudley.

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Face of hate — one of the EDL protesters in Dudley as police kept demos apart

**TWO centres supporting children with speech and language difficulties in Dudley will close, under a planned shake up of services.**

Parents say they fear their children could be placed into mainstream schools where they 'would not be able to cope'.

From September, Dudley Council is proposing to deliver the specialist service at just one site, Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge. This would mean centres at St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School in Halesowen and Quarry Bank Primary School will close.

By Richard Guttridge

attends the centre at St Margaret's. She said she was outraged and upset.

"Charlie wouldn't be able to cope and I don't know how they would cope having a child like Charlie in a mainstream school. Other children might bully him," she said. "I fear he will end up sitting in the corner and just go backwards."

Mrs Page, aged 35, of Lutley Lane, Halesowen, criticised the way parents had been informed. She said: "It's short notice and we also have to be assessed which takes time."

Mandy Spencer, 33, from Brierley Hill is preparing for her six-year-old son Brandon to move to a mainstream school. She said: "These are children who have got a specific need and the money should be there for them. They should be a priority."

Tim Crompton, Dudley Council's children's chief, said the changes would improve the service.

## Post office has reopened

A POST office in Gornal has reopened under a temporary deal while new premises are found.

The News Express store in The Straits, in Gornal, which contains the post office, closed last month.

But last week the post office reopened after more than 300 people signed a petition calling for the service to be saved. Dudley North MP Ian Austin, and ward councillors Stuart Turner and Dave Branwood backed the campaign.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



GO Set a Watchman is the title of Harper Lee's forthcoming novel. Curious. I assumed the sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird would be To Cook a Mockingbird.

ANYONE else surprised at the reports describing the bus-v-tree incident in London as a "freak accident"? If the bus is too high and the tree branch is too low, that's not freakery. It's maths.

WAY back in ye olden days we kids were expected to know our times tables by the time we left infant school at seven. We learned them by reciting them. The latest plan, to teach kids their times tables by the age of 11, was described this week as "ambitious." And while we're on the subject. In primary school, we 1950s kids understood verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. We did long division and multiplication. We did nature study and art, history, geography and PE. We sang sea shanties around the piano and did country dancing to the wireless. We could recite the Magnificat and the Beatitudes. And we were never, ever given any homework.

A POLICE campaign against thefts from vans in the West Midlands shows thieves breaking open a van's rear door in just six seconds and stealing valuable tools. Of course, drivers should leave nothing inside worth nicking. But surely the van makers must share the blame. Modern car-door locks make it virtually impossible to drive away a vehicle without the key. So why can the rear doors on a van be breached in six seconds?

BEST moment by far in Inside the Commons (BBC2) came when the new Rotherham MP Sarah Champion, flushed with success after getting a clause inserted in the law on child abuse, was talking excitedly to the camera.

Sud -  
 denly David Cameron passed across the screen behind her and, barely stopping, said: "Well spoken. That was very good." So this is our Sarah, the woman of the people, the no-nonsense, ecky-thump socialist from Oop North. She's unexpectedly face-to-face with the uber-totf Tory from Downing Street, the heir to Thatcher, and he's saying sweet things to her. So how did she react? May a hint of shock and irritation. But also a girlish flutter, like a lass assayed by someone she secretly fancied. It was a reminder that the Palace of Westminster is a seductive club which draws in even those MPs who are determined to be outsiders. A reminder, too, that MPs tend to be closer to each other than they are to us, the people.

THINGS to do on a snowy day. I didn't know until this week that the DVLA website offers a free service to find out the tax status of any motor vehicle. A reader tells me he belongs to a motor club which used the website to check the status of 300 entrants to a rally. Although all t displayed tax discs 50 of them, according to the DVLA, were untaxed or incorrectly registered.

A REPORT in Wales proposes "breaking up the old-boy network" by setting limits on how long local councillors can serve. This is revolutionary stuff. At present, councilors can be in power from puberty to the grave, so long as they represent one of those seats where a three-toed sloth would get elected if it wore the right-coloured rosette. Council chambers are full of the municipal equivalent of bed-blockers who soldier on long after they have served their purpose, dunking their free biscuits in their free tea. So what maximum length of term does the Welsh report suggest? Five years? Ten years, perhaps? Nope. The proposed limit is 25 years. Small revolution in Wales; not many affected. Back to your biscuits, grandad.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Tributes paid to former club stalwart

A FOOTBALL club in the Black Country has paid tribute to a former director who has died aged 57.

Fans and staff are mourning Phil Lloyd who worked as both Halesowen Town Football Club's groundsman and club steward before taking on the role of director.

Mr Lloyd, from Lyde Green, Cradley, who joined the club's committee in 1980, died at Russells Hall

Hospital last week. The club's former chairman, Ron Moseley, said: "During my time as chairman at the club Phil was an important part of the 12 person board."

### Depend

"Cast your eyes around the Grove and it will be difficult to find any project that he was not involved in.

"Phil was one of those people you

could depend upon, when the going was tough he was always at your side, totally committed to the club's ongoing success."

Mr Lloyd, who became a director in the early 90s, was heavily involved with the club until around 2004, when he retired from his role.

Outside of football, Mr Lloyd worked at Dudley Council and as a contractor at schools.

Mr Lloyd also helped the supporters' club bounce back after a devastating fire in 1996 caused an estimated £150,000 of damage.

Football clubs around the region sent the club messages of support.

Stourbridge FC tweeted: "Condolences from all at Stourbridge. NL football can't survive without the unsung few like Phil. They're hard to replace."

**Check on register to vote, says chief**

RESIDENTS are being urged to register to vote so they can have their say in the upcoming General Election. The Parliamentary and local elections take place on Thursday, May 7.

Like all authorities across the country, Dudley Council recently introduced the new individual registration system, requiring each individual in a household to be responsible for registering themselves, which they can also do online.

The council is urging people to make sure they are registered to vote and their information is correct.

### Phone

Sarah Norman, council chief executive and electoral registration and returning officer for the borough, said: "Making sure you have your say in the elections is very important but the only way to do that is ensuring you're registered to vote."

"It's never been easier to register and can be done online or over the phone."

Registration can be done online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote), residents will need to have their national insurance number to hand, or alternatively, people can call Dudley Council's elections office on (01384) 814740.

## Arrests after burglaries

THREE men have been arrested following a spate of distraction burglaries targeting pensioners across the Black Country.

Officers from the Central Motorway Police Group stopped a car on Hagley Road on February 3.

Two men in the car, aged 18 and 20, were arrested on suspicion of burglary. A 52-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of burglary following the search of an address.

Superintendent Andy Parsons, of Dudley Police, urged residents to look out for their elderly neighbours.

### Vouchers back

A SCHEME that has seen almost £1 million of sports gear awarded to schools and children's clubs in Dudley has been rolled out for a tenth time. Active Kids backed by Sainsbury's is at the Amblecote and Merry Hill stores. Customers can earn vouchers until May 5.

# Plenty to do during the half-term holiday

LOTS of activities will be held at museums across Dudley borough during the February half term holiday next week — and many of them will be free.

Youngsters can enjoy special events, summer schools and family fun days with the Juniors at Museums (JAM) club this February half-term.

Activities are on offer at all three Dudley Council museum sites — Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford and Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone — from craft activities to family fun days.

Free family trails, where children hunt for clues around the venue, will be available every day from this Saturday to Sunday, February 22, throughout the holidays (except Broadfield House on Mondays and Dudley Museum on Sundays). The trails are inspired by the BBC 'Take Ten' project.

Over at the Red House Glass Cone, on Monday youngsters aged eight and over can enrol in a day-long holiday school from 9.30 to 3.30. Suitable for ages three and up, the fun sessions encourage young children and families to work together on a marble run.

There's a free drop-in Sticky Saturday session this Saturday, February 14, at Dudley Museum in the town centre with the chance to have a go at a craft and get messy and sticky. Sticky Saturday runs 1.30 to 3.30pm.

Also at Dudley Museum in Priory Street is a drop-in pancake themed crafts day on Tuesday, from 10.30 to 3.30. Families can take part in a range of craft activities for £2.30 per child. There is no need to book.

The cone is also hosting a free Sticky Saturdays drop-in craft session on February 21 from 1 to 3pm.

For more information visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums)

RECENTLY submitted views on the provision of pharmacy services in Dudley borough.

Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board is working on its Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and members are looking for comments from the community.

The assessment sets out available pharmacy services, identifies gaps in provision and makes recommendations for future developments.

Consultation is open until February 17 for residents to have their say.

The survey is available on-line at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

## Pharmacy views sought

### Book to remember Tommy



Sisters Angela Daniels and Jill Hughes with a portrait of comedian Tommy Munden

TWO of Black Country comedian Tommy Munden's fans are planning a book that will also tell his life story from his humble beginnings in Halesowen.

Tommy died last year aged 80 following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Retired teacher Angela Daniels, of Halesowen, and her sister Jill Hughes performed with Tommy in the 1970s in musical group Family Affairs.

Mrs Daniels said: "We knew Tommy in two different ways, he was a family friend

and our parents are actually godparents to his children, but we also performed with him.

"We went to his funeral and whilst we were there we realised just how many people had stories about what a great man he was, everybody had their anecdotes."

Tommy's widow Val has given her blessing. Mrs Daniels said anybody wishing to contribute to the book, to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice, can email [ange.laandjill@gmail.com](mailto:ange.laandjill@gmail.com) or call 0121 5503221.

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## Profits up for the top 200 companies

THE 200 biggest companies in the West Midlands have continued their post-recession revival, scoring a hat-trick of increasing revenues, profits and international sales, says a new report.

The report from accountants BDO saw net profits increase by 52 per cent to £7.6 billion, compared to £5bn the previous year.

Group revenues grew by 13 per cent to £124bn.

International sales also flourished, more than doubling from £14.4bn to £31.4bn in just two years, with overseas expansion being described as 'the guiding principle' for growth.

There are 34 Black Country businesses in the top 200, with a combined turnover of £12.5bn, including AF Blakemore & Son, Poundland and Asda. Abloy in Willenhall, Barhale and Castings in Walsall, East End Foods in West Bromwich, Sandvik and Eriks in Halesowen, Geopost in Smethwick, Mueller Europe in Bilston, Brindley Garages and Tangent Trading in Dudley.

Manufacturing is the biggest sector in the West Midlands, accounting for 70 of the 200 largest companies, while Birmingham remains at the top place with 59.

## Get healthy via the net

A WEBSITE has been launched encouraging people to eat well and get fit.

The Dudley Council-run website — [www.lets-get.com](http://www.lets-get.com) — has information about activity and nutrition, and gives each visitor the opportunity to create their own healthy living plan.

The site features healthy recipes and details of local restaurants serving healthier options.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The Let's Get campaign encourages everyone to eat well and be more active."

## Motorcyclist hurt

A ROAD was closed when a motorcyclist was involved in a collision with a car.

The incident happened at around 5.10pm last Thursday on Peartree Lane in Netherton.

The motorcyclist suffered a leg injury and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

# MP takes police station protest to the top



Counter cut — Dudley Police Station

A 2,000 signature petition against the closure of the public counter at Dudley Police Station has been handed in to Home Office ministers.

It was launched by Dudley North MP Ian Austin after it was announced in November that Dudley Police Station would close to the public.

Mr Austin, who has also secured a meeting with Policing Minister Mike Penning, has raised concerns about the move and says there is 'huge opposition' in the town to the plans.

The public counter at Dudley is one of

three in the borough and one of 27 across the West Midlands which will close under the plans by West Midlands Police aimed at saving £3 million. The front counters at stations in Halesowen and Stourbridge will also shut.

### Unacceptable

Mr Austin said: "There's huge opposition to these plans in Dudley so I'm pleased that the Policing Minister is meeting me to discuss their concerns.

"It is completely unacceptable that Dudley could become the largest town in the

country without a police station open to the public. Thousands of local people are backing my campaign because they know these cuts will mean fewer police on the streets, fewer offenders brought before court and fewer criminals put in jail."

Dudley Police Station is currently open throughout the week from 10am to 6pm.

West Midlands Police says the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review, which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet or social media to contact officers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Vet's surgery plan for shutdown pub

A FORMER pub will be converted into a veterinary surgery under new plans.

The proposals have been revealed for the Cottage Spring in Mill Street, Brierley Hill.

A report by developers states: "The premises ceased trading as a public house many years ago and as a consequence has been let vacant for well over two years... the site has a road frontage, access driveway to a large rear parking area and garden making this an ideal site for veterinary use."

The plans will be considered by Dudley Council.

### Ready steady bake at living museum

YOUNGSTERS inspired by the Great British Bake Off can put their skills to the test at the Black Country Living Museum.

Events will be staged at the attraction, in Tipton Road, Dudley, during half term, when visitors can watch demonstrations of how bread was baked in the 19th century. Youngsters can have a go at making biscuits on a traditional cast-iron range.

Family tickets are available and can be booked online at [www.bclm.com](http://www.bclm.com)

### Magical mystery talk on Midlands

HISTORIAN and author Ian Bott will present a talk at a history society meeting tonight (Thursday).

Sedgley Local History Society will host a 'Magical Midlands Mystery Tour' presented by Mr Bott, a Wednesbury historian, on stately homes, inns and other places of interest across the region. It takes place at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilton Street. £1 admission.

### Oompah & chips is on the menu

IT'S oompah time with a night of traditional German beer drinking music with a British twist.

Karl's Bavarian Brass Band will be at a beer and music night at Wilson Hall, Colley Gate, on February 28 at 7.45pm in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets cost £14 including fish and chip supper. Call (01384) 671149.

### Help for badger

AN INJURED badger was rescued by police after being spotted outside Sandwell Magistrates' Court in Oldbury. PCSO Kate Heatley called RSPCA for help as she could see the animal was in pain.

# Shopping centre's new owners pledge investment

**A SHOPPING** centre in Brierley Hill has been bought by a property firm which has pledged to attract extra new shops.

The Moor Centre has been purchased by Evolve Estates for an undisclosed sum.

The London-based property company, which has a property portfolio worth almost £100 million, said it will invest in the 14-unit centre on the High Street.

## Subsidence cash claims are refused

MORE than £150,000 has been paid out to tackle subsidence caused by old mines in the region over the last 12 months.

The Coal Authority shelled out the cash on investigating and carrying out improvement works.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the authority, which manages the effects of past coal mining, had been called out to investigate 54 cases of subsidence in the Black Country, Staffordshire, Wyre Forest and Birmingham.

In Dudley, and parts of north Worcestershire, there were nine reported call-outs, but only two were confirmed as subsidence, costing £13,673.

The authority refused all 32 claims for compensation from land and home owners it had received in 2013/14 and it would not reveal the reasons why.

The body paid out £400,000 in claims between 2010 and 2013.

Residents and businesses in coal mining areas can make claims for subsidence damage to the authority.

Traders and councillors have welcomed the move and hope it will help the regeneration of Brierley Hill.

Danny O'Keefe, partner at Evolve Estates, said: "We will be investing in a programme of refurbishment and improvements to significantly improve the scheme for the benefit of occupiers and their customers."

"Along with our managing agents, London and Cambridge Properties, who are located close to Brierley Hill, we will be working closely with Dudley Council and Brierley Hill businesses to ensure the success of the centre — attracting a greater footfall and a range of new tenants."

### Vibrant

The centre already has several big name tenants including Iceland, Superdrug, Boots, BetFred and Greggs.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The Moor Centre could be a really vibrant and viable centre, like it has been in the past. We welcome anybody coming in to invest in the area and I hope that they will work with both the council and councillors, as well as the community. We want to continue to drive the regeneration of the High Street."

Shane Birch-Bastock, chairman of Brierley Hill Traders Association, said:

"It is good to finally see investment in the area."

## Removal of trees criticised as 'vandalism'



Sally Barton is angry about trees in Mary Stevens Park being chopped down as part of 'improvements'

MATURE trees near to a war memorial in Stourbridge have been cut down in an act branded 'vandalism' by an angry resident.

Sally Barton, of Norton, has criticised removal of the row of conifers at Mary Stevens Park saying more consultation should have taken place with residents before they got the chop.

The trees have been removed as part of a £3.1 million project to improve the Stanley Road park.

A £2.6 million Heritage Lottery

Fund grant had been received to carry out works. Officials say removal of the trees will allow better access to the war memorial for those using mobility scooters.

But Mrs Barton, who lives near the park, said the move had taken away from the beauty of the park.

"Anyone who has stood with head bowed over the years on a bleak November morning on Remembrance Sunday will know how thankful they are for the presence of the row of trees

to protect them from the cold wind," she said. "It is so sad to have seen them removed. Rather than the background of these healthy trees, all you can see behind the monument now is buildings. It is terribly sad."

Councillor Heather Rogers, Chairwoman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park, said removal of the trees had always been part of the plan. "Information on this part of the project has been available for a long time and the work was necessary," she added.

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with Mark Andrews

SOME years ago, a former chancellor of the exchequer once remarked that mobile phones were 'the scourge of modern society'. He was wrong.

Norman Lamont's comments came long before smart phones and text messaging, which have turned a generation of teenagers into zombies.

But even in the early 1990s, mobile phones were starting to grate. However, that irritation pales into insignificance compared to the another supposed advance in telecommunications technology: the automated telephone system.

You know it, you make a phone call and are greeted by words to the effect "I can't be bothered to pick up the phone, so press one if you want another tedious set of options, press two if you want to be put on hold for 10 minutes, or press three if you are a new customer and have your credit card handy, in which case we will gladly part you from your money."

Actually, those precise words are very seldom used, which is a shame, because at least they would be honest. But you get the drift.

Now, such devices do have their place, such as paying utility bills, where it is easier to key in a few digits rather than dropping a cheque off in the post. But is there anything more infuriating than calling, say, a school, and having to listen to a string of messages about 'student absences' before you can get to speak to a member of staff? Aside from the fact schools don't have students. They have pupils.

Last week, I twice tried to top up my pay-as-you-go mobile phone using one of these automated lines, and on neither occasion was my account successfully credited. So how do you get through to an operator for help? You can hear all about how pressing different buttons will allow you to sign up to free calls, unlimited texts and 4G data packages, but if nothing happens, there is no option to actually speak to an operator. I still don't know now whether I have paid for the unlimited free calls and texts I haven't received.

If businesses want to prosper, they would do well to remember that customers will only tolerate so much of this. And for the public sector organisations which use this hateful technology: pick up the flipping phone.

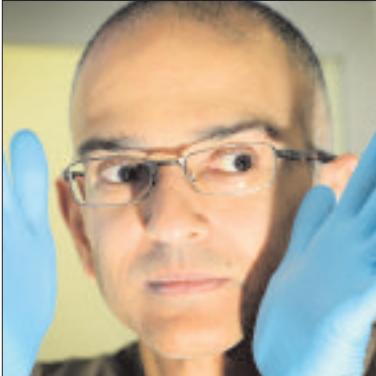
□□□□□

MPs were out in force last week to vote overwhelmingly in favour of creating 'three parent' babies, using a mixture of carefully-blended DNA to prevent genetic defects in children.

On balance, I'm still on the fence on this one, I can see the arguments from both sides. But isn't it strange that while politicians who spend years deliberating over the merits or otherwise of genetically modified tomatoes, they suddenly become so decisive on the subject of genetically-modified children?



Captain Adrienne Doyle hands out Christmas gifts



Biomedical scientist Adrian Smith



Adrian with his girlfriend Joanne - 'a rock'

## WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE Black Country Growth Deal promises £162 million and a wish list of huge projects, but forgive me if I won't believe it until I see it.

I'm not being negative about this. It's fantastic.

The deal promises the long-awaited rebuild of Wolverhampton's rail station, a major revamp of the Civic Halls, new buildings for colleges in Dudley and Halesowen, improvements to junction 10 of the M6, 5,000 jobs and 1,400 homes.

It is effectively the blueprint for putting these great towns and cities on the path to prosperity, a brighter future and so on.

The problem is it's not a done deal. There is still the matter of the authorities getting the go-ahead to borrow the money for the rail station or raise it another way.

At the end of this month it'll be 10 years since I started training to be a reporter. In all that time there has been the plan to rebuild what is an embarrassingly ugly rail station that does nothing to welcome would-be investors to the city of Wolverhampton.

Progress has been made, of course. The bus station's been up for almost four years and the new office and shop block nearby is getting going. But the rail station itself limps on. New designs have come and gone. The more that happens, the more difficult it becomes to generate anything akin to excitement among the people who should be welcoming this with open arms - and the travelling public.

There are some very upbeat messages coming out of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, which has done well to establish itself in its own right alongside larger neighbour, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (there's a mouthful).

Stewart Towe, the Black Country LEP's chairman, had a wonderful turn of phrase when he introduced cities minister Greg Clark at the growth deal signing ceremony at the Civic Halls. He explained how Mr Clark had seen the rail station represented an 'opportunity' for development. That's a kinder description than the Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin gave when he said it was 'awful'.

It's good we have people like Mr Towe going to bat for us when it comes to campaigning for funding. He will be far more diplomatic about seeking funding or devolved powers than a lot of people who have kept looking at artists' impressions rather than seeing cranes on the skyline.

Maybe there will be a pre-election rabbit pulled from the hat when it comes to the rest of the money to get things started.

"The television images are hard to cope with so seeing it for real will be on another scale."

"

Adrian said it is vital for everyone to come together to fight the spread of the disease.

"

For more information on Ebola and to donate funds to the relief effort visit

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# Adrian on call for Ebola crisis help

An Army Reservist is to fly out to Sierra Leone to help deal with the Ebola virus.

**NIGEL SLATER** reports

**A RESERVIST soldier from the Black Country is to fly out to West Africa to help the Army in its fight against the deadly Ebola virus.**

Adrian Smith, who works in the Biomedical Science (BMS) department at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, is in the final stages of training for deployment to Sierra Leone and was expecting to fly out with 202 Field Hospital to Kerrytown, subject to passing his validation exam some time this week.

More than 8,800 people have died of Ebola in West Africa, with 22,092 infected with the disease.

Fragile health services are struggling to cope with the pressure on services, as well as a lack of trained health workers and equipment.

### Patterns

The first group of 150 Army medical staff flew out to Sierra Leone in October last year, where they set up a treatment centre for infected health workers.

Adrian, from Wednesfield, will be investigating patient samples for Ebola patterns as part of a four-strong BMS team.

He said: "It is an honour to be called out to and I'll do all that I can."

"It is without doubt going to be one of the most challenging experiences of my life. It doesn't come much bigger than this. Being in the Army Reserve, I always anticipated a call was going to come and now it has, I am humbled and am ready for the challenge."

Adrian, who has a degree in Biomed-



Medical personnel carry out practice exercises prior to the opening of the Kerry Town Treatment Centre

ical Science has been working at New Cross Hospital for more than 13 years.

With previous service in the Royal Artillery in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he joined what was the Territorial Army almost two years ago.

He is currently an Army Reservist with 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital, a Reserve unit that has recent experience in providing deployed hospital care in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Field Hospital operates using tents or existing buildings to provide medical care to soldiers and, where necessary civilians, in the field.

Adrian said: "It's scary but very

exciting at the same time. This is the challenge I've wanted to be involved with for sometime and the reason that I joined the Army Reserve."

The 46-year-old is expected to be in Sierra Leone until the end of April.

He said: "The support I've had from friends and family has been so overwhelming. I've even had my work colleagues give me goodie bags in preparation for what is ahead."

"I'm going to miss my family and my girlfriend Joanne but have told them I'll be on the phone to them as much as I can. I can understand their worry but they know it is something I've

wanted to do for some time. I've been with Joanne for about a year now and she has been a rock for me. I'm going to miss her so much."

Adrian said: "I think the biggest challenge will be the emotional side of things."

"The television images are hard to cope with so seeing it for real will be on another scale."

Adrian said it is vital for everyone to come together to fight the spread of the disease.

For more information on Ebola and to donate funds to the relief effort visit [www.unicef.org.uk](http://www.unicef.org.uk)

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

"

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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# Car parking at park is now 'total chaos'

THE parking at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is now total chaos, even worse now than when Children's Services first moved there ten months ago. How Dudley Council can take such heavy handed attitude is beyond belief of the residents of Stourbridge.

Before Children's Services moved there, this problem was highlighted when it was learnt that there were 250-plus workers due to be moved to the buildings that are set in the park grounds. Dudley Council seemed to ignore the pending problem.

The forecast problem occurred as

## Memory of an inspiring art teacher

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

#### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Bring back sit and wait at GP surgeries

I HAVE long advocated the old sit and wait system should be bought back to doctors surgeries and, after reading a letter in your paper from a GP, I am even more convinced that it has got to be a better way.

He/she stated that so many people do not attend their appointment because of this. One of the reasons patients don't attend is because they have had to wait so long for their appointment they have got better in the meantime, or in some cases they have got worse and they have ended up in hospital.

Yes they should cancel the appointment and maybe if they have got better anyway they did not need the appointment in the first place but surely that problem would be eliminated if they went back to the old system and had morning and afternoon sessions with a final time for arriving on each session. I also think there should be surgeries at weekends too. There are of course advantages in the appointment system for working people, so surely the two systems could be run side by side and at least it would reduce the problem of none attendance somewhat.

Would it be so difficult for doctors to sort a rota system to accommodate this?

J JAMES  
Wordsley

I am trying to find out more about an old friend of the family, Jeff Mills, who taught art for many years in Halesowen College. He was a friendly character, who hailed from Tonyrefail in Wales, and went from there to the Slade School of Art, before coming to Halesowen to teach.

He and my father, Harry Hopkins, were friends and colleagues, and often exhibited their paintings together in Halesowen in the 1960s and 70s. They founded the Halesowen Arts Club and were very active in the artistic life of the town. My father retired back to Wales, and although they were in touch for some years, when my father finally passed away I could not trace Jeff.

He was a greatly valued friend and inspirational artist and teacher — I hope someone in Halesowen remembers him, as I do, with affection.

E HOPKINS  
Carms  
eirwenhopkins@aol.com

soon as Children's Services moved into the building which Dudley Council turned into offices.

This building was donated by Ernest Stevens to Stourbridge Council, and the use of the building was stipulated Ernest Stevens. However, no land was donated with the building.

Ernest Stevens donated all the land to the people of Stourbridge as a park, and so it has been since 1931.

Dudley Council's attitude appears to be that they will take over the park's car parks and ignore the needs of the people that want to use the facilities

of the park and the car park that was intended for them.

Dudley Council has no right to take up the spaces that was intended for park use. Dudley Council has no land there and no car park.

I have nothing against the people that work in those offices, they are welcome to come and park there and use the facilities of the park, but once they have finished using those facilities they must remove their cars from the car park so other people can do the same.

R WOODIER  
Stourbridge

## We should bring back foxhunting

WHEN I was a child we used to live near Oldswinford Rail Station and my father used to keep chickens in a shed in the back garden.

We had about 25 birds and one morning we got up to find three dead. Next day there were another three dead. He lost the rest of them week after week.

When I was five years I had six white rabbits. One morning I went out to feed them and found two of the baby rabbits dead, so dad changed where they slept, and then two days later another two were found dead and, two weeks later, the last of my prize winning rabbits were dead.

I used to put my son outside after his breakfast in his pram while I got on with the housework. When I went to get him in for his dinner I found a fox sitting on his pram. He was never put in the back garden again. So I'm all for fox hunting. Bring it on.

B SMITH  
Stourbridge

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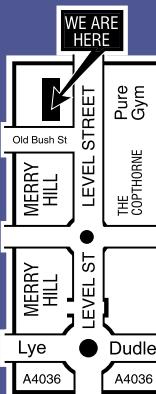
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### Lowdown on women's roles in war

Walsall Central TG

WALSALL Central TG met on February 3 and after the formalities chairman Pat Jones introduced a prospective new member who had learned of the group through the local press.

It is timely that at this time the club thanks the newspapers for their continued support in publishing many of its monthly articles – it is greatly appreciated.

The speaker for the evening was Alan Lewis, most ably supported by his wife Joy and their topic was "Women at War".

Since the earliest of times, when battle lines have been drawn, British women have stepped forward to the fray. This presentation concentrated on the last 100 years and members were introduced, both by speech and slides, to some very special women and showed just how the feminine role had changed in time of war.

Their tasks ranged from working on the land, in factories producing ammunition to flying planes and serving on nuclear submarines.

Alan and Joy's presentation was excellent, most interesting, entertaining and very well researched. The next meeting of the WCTG takes place on Tuesday March 3 in the Mellish Room, Central Hall, Ablewell Street, Walsall, commencing 7pm when the Annual General Meeting will take place.

New Members will be made most welcome and in the first instance should contact Mrs Janice Fussell, secretary, on 01922 631246.

# Actress Grenfell is subject of talk

Penn Townswomen's Guild

AFTER the chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and completed guild business, she introduced Ashley Adams for a talk on Joyce Grenfell.

Joyce came from a wealthy background, her grandparents were American and she was influenced by her Aunt Nancy who visited England, stayed and married Waldorf Astor. Joyce often visited Cliveden; she had an expensive education and went to finishing school.

Joyce was well-known for her acting career and her monologues. When she died, her memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey.

Ashley acted two short sketches; the Nativity Play at the Nursery and the Old School Reunion. Both were very amusing.

The Gardening Group had a meeting to plan the pro-

gramme for the year ahead.

Social Studies speaker

was Alan Bennett, Master

Butcher, affectionately known as Mr Sausage.

On February 25, Philippa

Cooper will talk about 'sweet success'.

## Creating labour of love for NGS

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trict Gardeners Mutual

well as the plants, oddities such as industrial weighing scales, water pumps and garden tools, painted green to blend in, plus a 'Folly' to house a 'bargain' add interest.

The garden is incredi-

bly beautiful, as shown in slides and a 'virtual tour'.

It was accepted by the NGS in 2009, despite the stream flooding and rising to three-to-four feet twice two days before the inspection.

Opening alongside their neighbours, they have received 3,791 visitors, raising £33,000. The Woodleighton Gardens, Uttoxeter, are open on 11 and 12 July, 1 to 5pm, entrance £3.50.

## New drone enjoys test flight

Wolverhampton Archaeology Group

about using a drone to investigate the history of Tintagel Castle in Cornwall.

At the next meeting is on February 24, Adrian Durkin will give a talk on Richard III. This may include a re-enactment.

Adrian's talks are always very enjoyable and this promises to be a very entertaining evening.

# New council boss ready to make hard decisions

THE new boss of Dudley Council is fully aware of the difficult decisions ahead as the authority continues to cope with Government cuts.

Seven years on from the global financial crisis and balancing the books is still top of the agenda for newly appointed chief executive Sarah Norman but she is confident in her role.

The council has already proposed savings amounting to £27.4 million by 2017/18 but a further £30m cash hole has yet to be accounted for.

"We need to make sure we are as lean and as efficient an organisation as we possibly can be," she said. "That means there will have to be some difficult decisions."

"There is no way local government can cope with the reductions in Government funding without making some painful changes to services."

## Experience

"This means we will need to look at everything. When you have to save £30m nothing can be protected."

In the desperate hunt to find savings the 52-year-old will be able to draw on a wealth of experience in local government. Before taking up the £165,000 a year role in January, Ms Norman had been strategic director for community at Wolverhampton City Council, where she worked for seven years.

The mother-of-two had previously served for eight years as an elected councillor in Liverpool, where she lived for 18 years.

The keen runner, originally from North London, is confident budget demands can be met.

"We have a lot of money to save but I think Dudley has got a good track record to build on — we are already half way there," she said.

"Now it is about how do we



'It's about doing things differently' — Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman

strengthens families to reduce the number of children in care? How do we keep adults as independent as possible as well so we don't have to provide as much adult social care support?

There is also a whole strand of work to undertake about doing things differently."

Ms Norman says strengthening the borough's economy will be one of her priorities. She believes improved transport links will play a vital role and has backed plans for a light rail hub connecting Dudley to the national rail network for the first time in more than 50 years.

Ms Norman comes into the role on the back of a decision to axe 11 senior management positions out of the 22 in a bid to save £1m. In total 700 jobs have been cut over four years.

She insists her role is an important one. "It is very important the council as a whole gets its leadership from one person," she said. "It is very difficult to imagine how a council could work effectively without a single point of senior leadership."

as we possibly can be," she said. "That means there will have to be some difficult decisions."

"There is no way local government can cope with the reductions in Government funding without making some painful changes to services."

"Now it is about how do we

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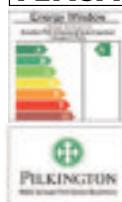
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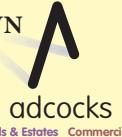
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# No-one can stop cuts, says top Tory Pickles

MORE cuts will be made to local councils regardless of which party wins the General Election, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has warned.

The minister, who was visiting Halesowen and Kingswinford last week, said local authorities had to start to 'empire building' and start to share more services.

When asked if the level of funding cuts were sustainable, Mr Pickles bullishy said: "It is completely sustainable. Satisfaction in local government and the level of reserves have never been higher."

"It doesn't matter who is running the country after the election, the amount of money is going down."

"If councils believe they need more money then it is up to them to make the case to the people and run a referendum."

### Appropriate

"Telling residents to expect 'more pain' is not appropriate language to use."

"Councils across the country have been able to find these sums."

"We have done a great deal in giving money where it is needed and have said to them if they are able to generate extra income they can keep it."

"They know what the situation is. We have put money in where the pressure is greatest."

"They really cannot expect to have empires and to co-operate more with neighbours."

As part of cost-cutting measures Dudley Council has controversially turned to dimming or switching off street lights. Residents have expressed fears it will lead to an increase in crime.



Eric Pickles, right, on the streets in Kingswinford with candidate Mike Wood

Mr Pickles said such decisions should be taken after talks with residents.

He said: "It has to be a local choice. The big difference now is that we have LED and new technology which has made it more efficient."

Mr Pickles was knocking on doors

with Conservative campaigners in Halesowen and Kingswinford, both in marginal constituencies.

In Halesowen he met with MP James Morris and in Kingswinford he met with Tory prospective parliamentary candidate Mike Wood for Dudley South.

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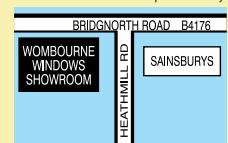
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## Glow-in-the-dark lantern canal fun

YOUNGSTERS can have a go at making glow-in-the-dark paper lanterns at a craft event inspired by Chinese New Year.

The activity will be held during the half-term holiday at Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines from Monday to Friday between noon and 2pm.

Visitors will then be able to board a boat and take their paper lanterns with them into the tunnels. Children of all ages are welcome and parents are encouraged to get stuck in too. Trips on the boat cost 50p.

There will also be 45-minute boat trips into the tunnels and caverns which run throughout the day from 10.30am to 3pm.

Spaces at the craft sessions are limited and can be booked by calling 0121 557 6265.

Alternatively people can e-mail info@[dudleycanaltrust.org.uk](http://dudleycanaltrust.org.uk).

# Police keeping pressure on burglars as crime rate falls

**BURGLARY** rates across the West Midlands have fallen to an all-time low, police say – although the number of break-ins across Dudley has increased.

Figures released by West Midlands Police show burglaries have decreased in Sandwell and Walsall by close to 15 per cent since last April compared to the same period 12 months ago.

In Wolverhampton there has been an increase of 1.2 per cent, while Dudley break-ins have risen by more than 15 per cent with 773 burglaries

for the 2014/2015 period compared to 668 the previous year.

The force is, however, hailing the figures a success with an overall decrease of 10 per cent throughout the region – a total of 942 fewer break-ins – which bosses say is down to officers tightening their grip on known offenders and protecting houses in crime ‘hot spots’.

### Halved

It continues a downward trend over the past decade that has seen burglary rates more than halved, from 26,933 in 2002/2003 to 12,704 in

2013/2014. Chief Inspector Alan Simmonds oversees Operation Illuminate, a project designed to tackle burglary in ‘hot-spot’ areas. He said: “We’re keeping up pressure on thieves with a history of striking during dark winter evenings.”

Stourbridge ward Conservative councillor Mike Wood, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dudley South, said: “It is great news that across the West Midlands the burglary rates are coming down. I look forward to working with local police to make sure the burglary rate in Dudley does come down.”

## New vicar hits the right chord



New vicar for Himley and Swindon, the Rev Charmaine Host, is a folk singer too. CHURCH congregations in two villages near Dudley can expect an injection of folk music into their services, alongside the hymns.

Folk singing is a favourite pastime of Rev Charmaine Host, the new vicar at St John's Church in Swindon and St Michael's Church in Himley, and she is planning to strum a few chords on guitar in services.

“As well as flowers I had some bottles of ‘Ow Do’ beer from the Six Bells brewery and some bostin’ scratchuns’. After the service I had one gentleman come up and tell me it ‘wore bad’, which I now understand is a compliment.”

On the third Monday of each month Rev Host with lead an all ages service at St John’s aimed at attracting newcomers.

She said: “I suppose my main emphasis, and what drives me, is actually helping people who don’t come to church to experience something of God. It is about making sure the church is a welcoming place for communities and always thinking of ways we can be relevant to people.”

In her new role she will double up on Sunday services, 9.30am in Swindon before

making the short journey to Himley for the 11am service. Originally from Aldridge, she said the people in her new parish had given her a special Black Country welcome.

“We all have songs which become very meaningful to us, religious or otherwise. The guitar complements a lot of the existing modern music which is played in churches,” she said. The 60-year-old spent the last six years as the vicar in Bredwood and Bishops Wood, also in Staffordshire.

In her new role she will double up on Sunday services, 9.30am in Swindon before

## Apprentices to help promote town centre

THE recruitment of two apprentices to help promote Dudley town centre has been approved.

Dudley Council has launched its Dudley Ambassador scheme aimed at boosting visitor numbers to attractions and businesses in the town centre.

The two apprentices will be employed for 12 months thanks to European grant funding. They will work with the Dudley Ambassador, Nikki Cheung, and will act as ‘champions’ for the town centre and Castle Hill tourism zone.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for human resources, has now given the go-ahead for the apprentices to be recruited. She said the apprentices will conduct tasks that include liaising with the public who visit the ambassador office, engaging people in Dudley town centre about the history of the town and other related activities.

This will enable the apprentices to achieve an NVQ level 2 in customer service. The total annual cost is £10,530.

## Collectors' record fair

IT'S the vinyl countdown as record-lovers get set to head to a fair in Stourbridge next month.

Vinyl fans can head to Kiki & Henry's Record Fair on Saturday, March 14, from 11am to 4pm.

The event, an offshoot of the popular Kiki & Honey's Vintage Fair, takes place at the Talbot Hotel in High Street.

There will be stalls selling vinyl records, CDs, books and magazines, clothing and music memorabilia from all eras and genres.

## CBSO chamber music saved

A WORLD famous orchestra has been given a £200,000 funding boost which will secure the future of one if its chamber music programme.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has received the cash in a donation from board member John Osborn. It will be matched by the Arts Council.

Bosses say the donation will secure the future of the orchestra's chamber music programme, which showcases the individual talents of the orchestra's players through performances by small groups.

The CBSO's public funding has been reduced by 24 per cent since 2010. Director of development Simon Fairclough said: “The need for support from private donors and funders is set to grow.”



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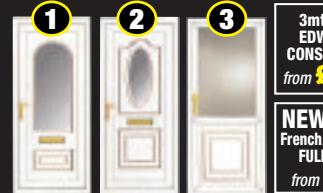
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## Homes proposed for Victorian school



An artist's view of how the 19th century Mount Pleasant School in Coseley will look when converted into homes

THIS is the vision for the future of a former Coseley school which is earmarked for homes. The old Mount Pleasant School, built 1879, will be transformed under plans unveiled by Dudley Council.

It follows a campaign by the Friends of Mount Pleasant to protect the building from the bulldozer. It faced an un-

certain future after Dudley archives service moved out last year to its new HQ on Tipton Road.

Under plans, the building will be converted into 16 homes for rent including 15 terraced houses and one detached. The plans are on show at St Chad's Church in Oak Street today (Thursday) from 3.30 to 7.30pm.

## Hospital to improve care

A HOSPITAL has made changes to improve care after an inquest revealing concerns about pain management and wound care.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said changes had been made after Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique told an inquest more could have been done to ease the suffering of Medina

Jones, who died from complications resulting from kidney disease.

Mrs Jones, aged 42, of Brierley Hill, had been diagnosed with the rare condition calciphylaxis, which results in chronic non-healing wounds.

Concerns were raised by family lawyer Anna Diamond that Mrs Jones' wounds had not been dressed properly, while a tissue viability nurse had not been involved early enough.

Ms Clark said: "We do acknowledge

the coroner's comments around shortfalls in her nursing care and that there were issues with pain management and wound care, for which we have wholeheartedly apologised."

"We undertook a thorough investigation at the time of Mrs Jones's death in April 2013, and, as a result, we have carried out an audit of wound charts used within the Trust and we are in the process of reviewing and refining their content."

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# Couple's counterfeit logo racket smashed

AN online fake goods racket run by a couple from their Sedgley home, which earned them £180,000, has been smashed.

Joanne and Simon Geddes printed logos of Disney, Hello Kitty, Justin Bieber and One Direction onto merchandise before selling it via Amazon and eBay.

The operation was run from the couple's living room and Paypal payments of £180,000 passed through their bank.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the pair had set up a legitimate enterprise called Baby Smiles to sell personalised gifts but they later offered T-shirts and gym bags with trademarked logos without permission.

The images were transferred onto the items using heat presses that were also confiscated during a raid at their Eversley Grove home.

## Laptop

Prosecuting barrister Mr Mark Jackson told the court that Simon Geddes, 44, was an ex-Dudley Council information technology worker and a laptop belonging to the authority was discovered in the haul. Mr Jackson said the crimes came to light after Newport City Council made purchases of items from eBay and inquiries led to Baby Smiles.

"At about the same time Dudley Council had a number of complaints about Baby Smiles' goods. The whole investigation was passed to Dudley Trading Standards. On November 22, 2012 officers with a search warrant went to the property," Mr Jackson said.

"A number of counterfeit items were seized and heavily packaged parcels ready to post were opened. Each had counterfeit goods inside."

Joanne Geddes, 42, previously ad-



Joanne and Simon Geddes have been given suspended prison sentences. Both admitted 23 offences relating to making and possessing items with intention to sell counterfeit goods, and one offence of money laundering between July 2011 and November 2012. Simon Geddes admitted 11 offences of aiding and abetting his wife to make counterfeit goods, and one offence of money laundering.

Mr Stephen Amblet, defending Mrs Geddes, a former bank worker, said the pair had been naive. "This business pays tax and is registered for VAT. The problem is that she did not know she was doing anything wrong or she would have checked," Mr Amblet said.

The business www.babysmiles.co.uk is still trading but in legitimate goods.

Ms Recorder Sandra Bristol sentenced both to 15-month jail terms for each offence suspended for two years and 120 hours unpaid work. Mrs Geddes must serve a nine-month supervision order. There was no separate penalty for money laundering.

A further 12 offences relating to Simon Geddes will lie on file.

Express &amp; Star

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# Mother, 77, taking fight for justice to Europe

MARY Law's fight began when her son died at the age of 51, after a career working as an electrician in factories where he was exposed to asbestos.

Since then she has been battling for greater compensation for the families of asbestos victims.

Now the 77-year-old from Dudley has taken her campaign to Italy where a ruling against the boss of a firm which allegedly contributed to the death of hundreds was overturned.

Mrs Law, whose son Roy Shipley died in 2010, opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago and also works as a chiropractor.

After getting involved with the Mesothelioma UK charity, she became aware of the case against Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny who is accused of failing to ensure the safety of workers in asbestos-cement plants run by his now defunct Eternit group in Italy in the 1970s and 80s. More than 3,000 workers died.

### Rome

He was convicted in 2012, after a three-year trial, and sentenced in absentia to 16 years in prison. But a court in Rome has since ruled that he should not have been convicted because the verdict came more than 12 years after the crime. This made the case subject to a 'limitation' law.

Mrs Law and fellow protesters waved banners and placards outside the Italian court and is planning to attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

"I'm furious about what has happened. I'm very angry about the lack of support for the families of victims," she said. "In this country the Government is not ensuring that people get enough compensation."



Asbestos compensation campaigner Mary Law has protested in Rome

sue former employers as they have gone bust or insurance details were lost, will be eligible.

"My son had mesothelioma of the abdomen and didn't stand a chance."

A court ruling in 2013 meant thousands of sufferers and their dependants in the UK will be able to get damages from a special £350 million pot over the next decade. Those diagnosed after July 25, 2012, who cannot

attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

Mrs Law says thousands of families are not getting enough compensation. About 2,400 people die every year of the disease and numbers are set to increase over the next 30 years.

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**Choosing the right boiler or central heating system can be very confusing and if done inadequately can be very costly. At Plumbzone we aim to walk you through the process at our fully-working showroom in Dudley. Complete with a team of installation professionals with lots of experience ready to answer all of your questions, our aim is to give you 100 percent peace of mind before, during and after the installation of your new fitted boiler.**

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Plumbzone is passionate to give back to the community; not only at the local level but also nationally and internationally.

Old copper that is removed from households and commercial properties is sold, with 100 percent of the sale proceeds going to fund various charity projects. 100 percent of any associated admin costs is funded by Plumbzone itself; this is to ensure that all sale proceeds go directly to helping others. Examples of projects that Plumbzone have been involved with include:

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Some of the Butler's FC players are seen with their cup winner's shields



Pete Edwards in his Albion hat joins in with the singing



Action from the final of the Express &amp; Star's six-a-side cup from back in 1954

# Loyalty stretched far beyond our side when Baggies won the cup

**ALTHOUGH I was born a Villa fan, Our Dad always instilled into us the importance of supporting the Midland teams if the Villa were knocked out of any cup-run.**

As the later 1960s was the bleakest of times for the fortunes of the Villa, that meant that each season we were having to back another Midland side, in the FA Cup especially.

In 1969 it was Leicester City who had our backing, although they lost against Manchester City in the final; but the year before it was West Bromwich Albion in their 1-0 victory over Everton to win the trophy.

Our Dad was even more delighted that it was a local team, a West Midlands club, that had won. In fact he was so chuffed that he took me and our Kid, Darryl, up town to cheer on the victorious Albion players when they arrived at New Street station in Birmingham on Sunday, May 19, the day after the match. There were several thousand of

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

us around there but that was just the start of the celebrations as The Times reckoned that 'about 250,000 Midlanders turned out' to watch West Bromwich Albion 'return in triumph with the Football Association Cup'.

From New Street, a 10-mile route was taken to West Bromwich and so great were the crowds along the way that they 'repeatedly broke through police cordons.'

Outside West Bromwich Town Hall, an estimated 10,000 Albion fans were packed in, 30 deep, on either side of the road and behind police lines. Many of them were 'perched in trees, on rooftops, and chimneys 40 feet up'.

When Graham Williams, the captain, emerged on the dais outside the Town Hall and held aloft the trophy, the crowd waved and cheered. The cheering swelled as each player came out to hold the cup, but the biggest acclaim of all was for Jeff Astle, the

centre-forward who had scored the only goal in the game.

Reg Clare also has a story relating to West Bromwich Albion. A while ago he and his wife spent the New Year at Blackpool. He says: 'We had a fantastic time.'

'The hotel was owned and run by a man from Tipton. All the residents were from the Midlands, and a lot of them were West Bromwich Albion supporters. A question came up: 'How did they get the nickname the Baggies'?

'Years ago I had heard that when they entered the league, they found themselves not so well-off and ready for folding, so they gave their loyal supporters little bags, and asked them and their friends to put a few coppers into them and bring them back next home match. This they did for a few weeks and they paid all debts. Management then said 'to show our appreciation to you loyal supporters and these little bags, if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be where we are, so I'm going to call you little baggies'. Thus arose The Baggies.'

Meanwhile, Mr C Pritchard has kindly sent in these three photographs taken in 1954, the year that he was born, and which include his father, Benjamin Ivan Pritchard, who is the goalkeeper.

The game was the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup. Benjamin's team was Butler's FC. Mr Pritchard says: 'He worked for Butler's brewery in Springfield Road off Cannock Road in Wolverhampton. Dad was in the RAF and also played football for the RAF in India which was his base.'

'He also played for Wolves and became third team goalkeeper as understudy for the late, great Bert Williams. Dad also played for Darlaston FC after he left Wolves FC.'

Mr Pritchard adds: 'I also have the winners' shield Dad received in the photo of the Express & Star final. I would like to know what happened to the Express & Star Cup, where is it kept now and where the pitch was - and also the name of the other team who played in that final, and who presented the cup. The two children behind dad in the photo are my brother and sister.'



Goalie Benjamin Pritchard gets the Express &amp; Star Cup

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## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# WINDOW COMPANY GLAZED IN SUCCESS!

DW Windows Ltd are now starting their 9th year of trading. Since moving into our current showroom at 7 Brick Street, Sedgley in 2010, the company has grown rapidly from two to five fitting teams with a dedicated service and maintenance engineer, who are all directly employed as opposed to using sub-contractors. The team also consists of a dedicated installations manager, surveyor, two quotation experts and five administration staff creating an additional 12 new jobs for local people.

The business is still very much family run with Company Director Dave Walters heavily involved with the everyday running of the business with five other members of staff who are family members. Dave's wife, Claire Walters has also joined the company to assist Dave with Health & Safety and HR requirements.

Our company ethos is 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right'. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales and this is why we have gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years of economic uncertainty.

We now have approximately 4500 happy customers on our books. We took on 676 customers last year alone and 60 - 70% of these were recommendations or repeat business from existing customers having more work done. This is testament to our high levels of customer satisfaction and quality workmanship.

Over the past twelve months we have improved the foundation of the company by attaining Construction Health & Safety Scheme accreditation (CHAS), training all of our staff in health & safety procedures and appointing an external Health & safety advisor to ensure that we are working safely and competently on customers properties and performing first class installations. This has also achieved us our first major commercial contract replacing 100 properties with windows and doors for a local housing association. We have taken on new products such as the Equinox Tiled roofing system for conservatories and noticed a massive swing of customers choosing composite doors as opposed to UPVC which offer improved looks and security.

Moving forward, DW Windows Ltd have completely outgrown our local Sedgley showroom and are now near to completing a deal to secure additional larger premises. This will enable us to continue to expand our installation team, create new office space and enable us to have one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands to showcase all of our fantastic products. Although we will keep our Sedgley showroom, the new premises

will allow us to create more jobs, assist the company to continue to expand whilst offering an increased product range and an even better service to our customers.



# THE BLUE SUBMARINE



**T**here's nothing better than a good old-fashioned plate of fish and chips to fulfil even the biggest of appetites; and docked just several hundred yards from Dudley's famous Russells Hall Hospital, The Blue Submarine has established itself as the Black Country's number one name in fish and chips.

The standard-setting business (which celebrated its 32nd birthday towards the end of 2014) has won numerous industry awards, and has recently been conferred a maximum of five stars by Dudley Council's environmental health

department for high standards of hygiene.

"We are delighted to have been officially recognised as one of the best among literally thousands of fast food and hospitality establishments," says owner Tony Andreas, aged 43. "We work very hard to ensure high levels of cleanliness and maximally efficient stock rotation."

A previous runner-up in the national Fish and Chip Shop of the Year contest, Tony's business serves an average of 3,000 customers per week, and employs 14 people.

"I think there are several reasons for our success, and why we are still the busiest shop of its type in the Black Country," explains Tony. "Firstly, because it has remained a family-run business, we have a personal investment in what we do and produce here. That changes everything."

"We filter our vegetable oils every day, sometimes twice a day, making our products virtually

carbon-free. We source the best ingredients, including fish that's delivered daily from sustainable waters.

"Our chicken kebab is 100 per cent chicken, as opposed to some of our rivals' products which are injected with water. Similarly, our doner kebab is composed entirely of lamb meat."

Tony adds that the Southern Fried Chicken pieces that he sells are cut from larger 4.5lb fresh chickens, while other shops are trying to extract as much as possible from 3lb chickens.



Last year the modernised establishment had further extensions to the rear of the shop,

resulting in a greatly-improved preparation area.

But Tony insists that there is still more to be done at the shop: "We plan on steadily expanding our menu throughout 2015, and catering for more parties and work get-togethers."

"There's also a wine promotion (a free bottle with every order of £15 or more) to celebrate National Chip Week this week, but we are running the offer until April as a way of saying 'thank you' to our customers old and new."



## Multi-Award-Winning Fish and Chips



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# Family firm for more than 30 years

**FAMILY** company Dreamworld was formed back in 1982, with the original shop in Windmill Bank, Wombourne in what was previously the village's Launderette.

Owner Roger Manley was then working as a merchant Banker based in Birmingham and after the couple's children started school he and his wife Ailie thought they should start a business.

"We weren't absolutely sure what type of business to open to start with," admits Roger.

"But we knew that Wombourne was a thriving village which was expanding rapidly and after studying the businesses that already existed we felt that there was a gap in the market for a furniture and bedding outlet."

## Strength

It turned out to be a good decision and during the next five years the business went from strength to strength with more family members joining the expanding team including Roger's brother John, sister Mavis and his two sisters in law.

In 1987, due to increasing demand, whilst retaining the original Wombourne shop the family opened a second outlet in Stallings Lane Kingswinford with approximately ten times the floor space.

Everything seemed to be progressing well with a further five years successful trading until tragedy struck when a fire completely gutted the Kingswinford store.

"The fire started on a Sunday morning whilst John and I were in the shop" explains Roger.

"It was a major setback and we were very low at the time but with the help of our suppliers, friends and family it turned into a true phoenix from the ashes story.

"Remarkably within just one week we were trading again moving into what was then vacant



Around 70 per cent of business comes via recommendation or previous customers

premises further down Stallings Lane where we have traded successfully for 24 years building an enviable reputation for value for money, quality and service."

It is the companies proud boast that approximately 70 per cent of their business comes via recommendation or previous customers.

"This is obviously the best type of business you can get and is an endorsement of the level of service and satisfaction that customers have enjoyed from us," says Roger.

## Generations

"We often get generations of families come to us who's parents and grandparents have bought items from us and we are now dealing with the latest generation, it's very satisfying."

A lot of the furniture Dreamworld sell is bespoke with settees made in any choice of size and style finished in fabric or leather.

The vast majority of the chairs can be or-

**A lot of the furniture is bespoke with settees made in any choice of size and style finished in fabric or leather**

dered as recliners including 'rise and recliners'

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"As the old saying goes," says Roger, "you can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time and any company that operates on that basis without looking after customers is not going to last and certainly won't enjoy the longevity that Dreamworld has."

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"We are very proud of our record for customer satisfaction which has always been at the top of our agenda."

Finally, the latest chapter in Dreamworld's progress is the expansion and refurbishment of the store. This coincides with the recent opening of the new Lidl supermarket in Stallings Lane which Roger confidently predicts will bring a higher volume of traffic and footfall past the showrooms.

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# Families in plea to keep free nursery transport

ANGRY parents turned out for a public meeting to voice their concerns over Dudley Council's plans to cut free transport for children with special needs.

The council currently pays for dozens of children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries. But it says it is not legally required to provide the service and has launched a consultation to bring in charges, saving more than £200,000 a year.

More than a dozen people attended a public meeting at Insight House, Brierley Hill, to raise their concerns.

As well as opposing the cuts, parents say they are not being given information about alternative solutions.

Mother-of-two Kirsty Barrett, of Dudley, said: "These children

deserve the best education and care possible." She was backed by Leah France who was there with her three-year-old daughter Olivia, among several concerned families.

Labour Councillor Ian Marrey, who has a disabled son, said: "I hope we can roll back these plans. On this important matter I cannot agree with Dudley Council because it conflicts with what I know as a parent."

A petition has been launched against the proposed cuts to free transport for children with special needs.

After the meeting Councillor Tim Crumpton, who is in charge of children's services, said: "There were plenty of strong feelings expressed. We will never get it completely right but we want to learn from this and get as many opinions and feedback together as possible."



Three-year-old Olivia France with her mum Leah makes her views known to Councillor Tim Crumpton

# MP wants energy bill help extended

AN MP is calling for fuel bills to be frozen after a new report showed that tens of thousands of children in Staffordshire and the Black Country are in homes with energy debts.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is backing a campaign launched by the Children's Society to get more help for low income households so that parents can pay gas and electricity bills. He has written to Energy Secretary Ed Davey after the charity's survey found that 20,500 youngsters in the Black Country alone were affected.

The figures have been revealed as part of the charity's 'Show Some Warmth' campaign for energy companies to offer support to families who fall behind with payments.

Across Dudley borough 9,700 children are living in homes with arrears, in Sandwell 5,600, in Wolverhampton 8,400 and in South Staffordshire 3,300.

Currently energy companies are obliged to help disabled and elderly people with energy debts. The Children's Society wants families to benefit from the same support to ensure that they are offered a fair payment plan and put on the cheapest tariffs.

# Fatal crash motorist's sentence is 'justified'

A DRIVER who had never had a driving lesson before he killed his passenger in a high-speed smash deserves every day of his jail term, top judges have ruled.

Ashley David Lovekin, aged 25, from Dudley, lost control of a Peugeot 206 while racing another car before slamming into a lamp post in a collision that left 31-year-old Nicola Robinson dead.

Lovekin, who previously served a custodial term for killing his mother's boyfriend, was jailed for five years and eight months at Wolverhampton Crown Court last July.

He admitted that his dangerous driving caused Ms Robinson's death, as well as serious injury to his other passenger.

Lovekin, of Springfield Road, Dudley, was ruled a 'dangerous' offender and was ordered to serve five years on extended licence after his release.

Three senior judges at a hearing on Friday at London's Appeal Court rejected his challenge to his sentence.

Mr Justice Mitting said Lovekin got behind the wheel of the Peugeot at about 3.45am on August 4, 2013 – despite having no licence, no insurance and never having had a driving lesson.

With Ms Robinson and a 23-year-old man in the car, he was seen travelling at over 50mph in a 30mph zone along Birmingham Road, Blakenhall, in the lead up to the crash.

While racing an Audi and pulling in and out of his lane, Lovekin lost con-



Jailed – Ashley Lovekin

trol and smashed into a lamp post. Ms Robinson was killed while the other passenger was badly hurt. Lovekin received minor injuries.

On appeal, Lovekin's lawyers insisted that he was 'not a menace' and that he had shown genuine remorse and that the risk of him behaving in the same way again was minimal.

Appeal judge Mr Justice Mitting said Lovekin's punishment was 'entirely justified', adding: 'The judge was entitled to find that the sentence must protect the public from the significant risk of serious harm posed by further offending. For that reason this renewed application (for permission to appeal) is refused.'

# Radio enthusiasts told to remove masts

AMATEUR radio enthusiasts have been told masts which have been put up in their gardens in Halesowen and Cradley will have to come down.

Planners at Dudley Council refused applications for the structures to remain, due to the impact they would have on neighbours.

The mast in Kiniths Way, Halesowen, would have stretched to a height of eight metres when in use and reduced to two metres the rest of the time. Another mast proposed for Tree Acre Grove in Cradley was slimmer but reached nine metres when in use.

Councillor Qadar Zada, planning committee chairman, said he 'wouldn't like to wake up' to either structure.

He said of the application for Kiniths Way: 'I think it is quite an intrusive structure. I can't support this on the basis of the significant impact on the visual amenity.'

"It can't be a good sight to wake up to."

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# Stop Smoking, Start Vaping

From a stall at Bilston Market to owning and opening two shops in under three years is pretty impressive business given the current climate we are living and trading in don't you think? Some would go as far as saying, "That it's too much too soon or it won't last!" However there are two community-based business partners who are proving that you can survive and be a successful business without taking on huge risks or loans.



Andy and Kirstie, the founders of Midlands Vaping started trading in 2012 with just £700 in Bilston market. Two budding entrepreneurs set about unleashing the "World

of Vaping" to the general public to help those faced with the challenge of stopping smoking. A stall with just a few select juices and vaporising machines, they set about trading every Sunday. They then saw a gap in the market and were able to secure the only licence in the Plaza Mall, Dudley to start selling their vaping products and merchandise. Having just opened Midlands Vaping on King Street in Dudley town centre in December 2014 they have now also added a shop in Wall Heath, Kingswinford and those market stall days are quite a way behind them.

This is a real community-based business and outlet, offering people advice and help on various methods of stopping smoking

by vaping as an alternative. A marketing which is on the up and whilst every Tom, Dick and Harry may be trying to explore, Midlands Vaping are definitely the real deal. Both Andy and Kirstie have stopped smoking and now they are helping everyone who is willing to come forward and see them. Team MV cater for everyone from starter packs to experienced vapours and can match budgeting with their products ranging from £1.50 to £300. Weekly offers as well



current and more importantly how to kick their smoking habit.

The King Street branch has introduced monthly "Vape Meets" where Midlands Vaping hold competitions and new product launches from Custom T-shirts, hoodies, also mods, tanks, juices and vaping devices, Midlands Vaping have everything covered. The meets are on the last Saturday of each month, with the next one on the February 28 2015. Through their website they are about to attract orders from around the world and people from around the UK to their new meetings. Look no further than Midlands Vaping if you want to kick the old smoking habit.



as Facebook competitions also keep the community in touch and together. Their new shops offers the scope to visit, have a coffee, catch up and speak about all things

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# Texas celebrating 25 years of music

## Album Reviews

By Leon Burakowski

GLASWEIGIAN band Texas celebrate their silver anniversary with an album that reworks their biggest hits and includes four new songs.

One of those new tunes, Start A Family, sets the soulful standard on Texas 25 (Pias) with a tender vocal from Sharleen Spiteri and a lush arrangement glowing with Hammond organ and slide guitar. Black Eyed Boy is reinvented as a Motown stomper, Say What You Want has fatter bass and horns, Halo and Inner Smile are given southern soul makeovers, while The Conversation gets a voodoo vibe. When We Are Together finds Sharleen emulating Diana Ross on a Supremes-like revamp.

Their best known song, I Don't Want A Lover, is funkier on these New York-recorded Truth & Soul Sessions whilst keeping the signature slide guitar. Summer Son is given a reggae-like lift plus lots more Hammond and echo.

Of the new songs, Are You Ready is the weakest but is pleasant enough with its surf guitar and sing-along chorus. Supafly Boy is pure 60s with a Sliced Tomatoes-like backing. Say Goodbye echoes both Say What You Want and Al Green's back catalogue. If these revamped versions make you nostalgic for the originals, among the various formats of album from February 16 is a double CD pack containing the original hits too. Expect a stripped back, semi-acoustic approach when Sharleen and her boys present An Evening with Texas at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 19.

London siblings Kitty, Daisy and Lewis Durham return with The Third yes it's album number three — exploring a diversity of retro stylings, often with harmonica to the fore on this



Sharleen Spiteri, singer with Texas, who have given their repertoire a revamp

Sunday Best release. Highlights include bluebeat chugger Baby Bye Bye, Kinks-like opener Whenever You See Me, the bluesy Good Looking Woman and Imelda May-ish rockabilly number It Ain't Your Business, all produced by former Clash guitarist Mick Jones.

Jazz singer and pianist Diana Krall reworks several modern standards and personalises them in her restrained style that remains somewhat minimalist despite lush production on new album Wallflower (Verve).

Songs getting the Krall treatment include California Dreamin', Desperado, Superstar, I'm Not In Love, Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word and Don't Dream It's Over. There are a cou-

ple of star duets, Michael Bublé joining Krall for a version of Gilbert O'Sullivan's achingly sad Alone Again and Feels Like Home with Bryan Adams.

The key track is a new Paul McCartney song, written for Krall, with the former Beatle in full-on romantic mode for I'll Take You Home Tonight which sounds like a lost Wings classic, which she gives due gravitas.

She will be kicking off her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 28.

Despite a sexist sleeve, that was par for the course in the 70s, The Best of Cerrone Productions (Because) is a hugely enjoyable glitterball of 70s disco from the stable of ace French producer Marc Cerrone.

## Flamboyant

This 36-track double set involves more panting than in the average marathon, lots of pulsating electronics and decadent strings, and bland choral singing, under Cerrone's own name and various pseudonyms/protégés. Cerrone and Italian counterpart Giorgio 'I Feel Love' Moroder practically invented disco and their flamboyant sounds remain an epitome of ridiculous hedonist fun.

All We Are are a trio who met at university in Liverpool but hail from Ireland, Norway and Brazil, and on their eponymous debut album they demonstrate a kind of aloof cool that could appeal to fans of London Grammar and The XX. Released by Domino, tracks such as Stone and the more upbeat Honey have an icy allure.

No Romeo is the belated debut album from Nottingham singer Indiana (AKA Lauren Henson), losing momentum with it being released by Epic several months after her synth pop hit Solo Dancing. There is depth here, dark subjects explored on songs such as Play Dead and Blind As I Am, from an electronic artist closer in spirit to James Blake or PJ Harvey than typical dancefloor fodder. Seek this if you like Portishead or London Grammar.

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## British Heart Foundation

**10 MINUTES TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE**



February is Heart Month and this year we're urging people to take at least 10 minutes a day to help improve their heart health as well as support our annual fundraiser, Wear it. Beat it.

There are currently seven million people in the UK living with cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attack and stroke. However, in many cases people can reduce their risk of these conditions by improving their diet, doing more physical activity and quitting smoking.

New statistics we're releasing today show that less than a third (30%) of adults in England eat five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day, and 33% of men and nearly half (45%) of women do not do the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity a week.

To better understand these trends, we carried out a survey that showed a lack of time and motivation are top of the list in terms of barriers that are preventing people being as healthy as they would like. The survey found that almost a quarter (23%) of people said their family or work commitments get in the way of them leading a healthier lifestyle, with 20% saying losing motivation is the biggest barrier currently preventing them from leading a healthier lifestyle.

### Small, everyday changes

In response, we're encouraging people to 'start small' by taking at least 10 minutes every day to make a small change towards a healthier lifestyle during February's Heart Month. This is in line with government recommendations that adults should aim to be active daily, 'in bouts of 10 minutes or more', adding up to at least 150 minutes per week.

Catherine Kelly, our Director of Prevention, Survival and Support, said: "The public have told us loud and clear that time and motivation are fundamental barriers to a healthy lifestyle. We have to listen to their concerns and during this Heart Month we are offering people manageable and realistic guidance to help make small changes to their extremely busy routines."

"We know that changing the simplest everyday habits can make a big difference - from getting off the bus two stops early to eating more fruit and veg, and building bite-sized chunks of physical activity in to your everyday life. During Heart Month we're urging everyone to take on the Heart month 10 minute challenge to improve their heart health as well as join our Wear it. Beat it. fundraising event on 6 February to fund life saving research."

### Get involved

During Heart Month the BHF is offering an email support programme and advice to help people improve their diet, get more active or quit smoking. You can join the conversation on social media using the hashtag, #10MinChallenge

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Nice night out with comics and music

COMEDY character Mrs Barbara Nice will appear in an all-female variety show at a Wolverhampton arts centre.

The show is being presented at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, on March 5 as part of International Women's Week.

The character has been created by Janice Connolly who appeared as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere. Miss Connolly has also been in Coronation Street and is artistic director and founder member of Birmingham-based Women of Theatre.

The show at 7pm will feature four comedians and musical acts. Tickets are £8, call 01902 572090.

### The mighty Quinn has three dates

SINGER and actor Ray Quinn will be singing in the Black Country and Staffordshire on his UK tour, starting at the Robin 2 in Bilston on March 4.

The Dare To Dream tour also visits the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock on April 23 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on June 20. The 26-year-old was runner up to Leona Lewis on The X-Factor in 2006 and won ITV's Dancing on Ice in 2009 and the final All Stars series.

Following his first platinum selling album Doing it My Way, Quinn is moving from swing to soul and ballads on new album Dare to Dream, released in April.

# Jodie's return as Calamity Jane is now just a whip-crack-away

THE nation's Nancy, Jodie Prenger, is back on the boards in the West Midlands as a roarin' tootin' wild west heroine in the whip-cracking musical Calamity Jane.

The Blackpool girl with the big voice was catapulted into fame when the public voted her their choice to win 2008 BBC TV series I'd Do Anything, the TV talent search for a performer to play Nancy in the revival of Lionel Bart's musical Oliver! at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

She won critical acclaim in the role and went on to carve out a career on the stage, both as Spamalot and One Man Two Guvnors.

She has also become a radio presenter, often deputising for her pal Paul O'Grady on BBC Radio 2.

The UK tour of Calamity Jane, which calls at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, gives Jodie the chance to take on a role famously created on film by her idol Doris Day in 1953.

She will be playing tom boy Jane opposite Tom Lister, best known for playing Carl King in TV's Emmerdale, in the Howard Keel role as Wild Bill Hickock.

### One-nighter

The show's Oscar nominated score includes The Black Hills of Dakota, The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away), Just Blew in from the Windy City and the Award winning song Secret Love.

Lindsay Posner's revival of 1940s Pulitzer prize winning Broadway comedy Harvey, which was made into a film starring James Stewart, continues at Birmingham Rep with James Dreyfuss as the man who believes he has a giant rabbit pal and Maureen Lipman as his worried sister.

Also at the Centenary Square venue, the main house hosts a special one-nighter on Sunday, A Summer In The South, readings from the works of Colette by Robert Powell and Siân Phillips.

An ageing Caribbean recluse who keeps bees and a teenage heiress clash in The

By Leon Burakowski

Honey Man by Tyrone Huggins, with the Birmingham playwright himself in the titular role, at The Rep's The Door venue from Monday to Saturday.

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands, the choreographer's dream-like dance version of Tim Burton's popular fantasy, continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Then Birmingham Royal Ballet start their latest season at the Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, three American ballets, from February 18 to 21.

The sensational singing siblings who found fame on Britain's Got Talent, Richard & Adam, are at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday night. Their Valentine's special features a fellow singer from Wales, Sophie Evans. She found fame as the runner-up on BBC TV's Over The Rainbow in 2010, and went on to perform as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, a role shared with winner Danielle Hope.

Strictly Come Dancing's Brendan Cole is at the Grand tonight (Thursday) with his Latin and ballroom extravaganza A Night To Remember. His former colleagues Vincent Simons and Flavia Cacace star in Dance Til Dawn at the New Alexandra until Saturday, and Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.



Scene from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

## Curious drama is a mystery

THE National Theatre's award-winning production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour.

Running from Tuesday to Saturday, Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel received seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Play. It was seen by more than 200,000 in the West End.

The play tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old ill-equipped to deal with everyday life who is found beside his neighbour's dead dog, Wellington, which has been speared with a garden fork. Christopher is under suspicion, so uses his extraordinary brain and exceptional ability at maths to solve the mystery.

The Curious Incident will be explored again at Birmingham Hippodrome from May 26 to June 6.

## Dunlop to play at Kitchen Garden

If you are out in the Second City on Friday then critically acclaimed Blair Dunlop will be playing the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Doors open 7.30pm with the show starting 8pm. Tickets are £12 but may incur a booking fee if bought through the website.

On the same night, February 13, the Woodman Folk Club, which meets at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford is playing host to Jinksy. Members £6 and non-members £1 more. Shows start 8.30pm.

Then on February 20 you can enjoy The Jigantics, the show starts at the same time and members pay £7, non-members £8.

## Carrying legacy of The Dubliners

If you are a fan of the legendary Dubliners then you will enjoy the group which is carrying on their legacy in Birmingham next week. The Dublin Legends will be playing the ornate Town Hall, Victoria Square on February 15.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £25 plus the usual transaction fee.

Singer Diana Jones will be playing at Up In Arms, Biddulph, Staffordshire on Wednesday, February 18. Tickets are £12 and doors open 7.30 for 8pm start.

For anyone wanting more information or to reserve seats then call Eric Cox on 01782 514896.

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## CHOICE

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30 James Martin:** Home Comforts. **12.00 BBC News:** Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** **1.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union:** England v Ireland (Kick-off: 2.30pm). **4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union:** Ireland v France (Kick-off: 5.00pm).

**6.55 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**7.15 The Voice UK.** The blind auditions continue, although competition is fiercer than ever as the number of available places on each team reaches. Tonight's blind auditions: Decade-old duo Lee and Lee, spoken-word poet Lara Lee and Damian Dalton Smith – the brother of actress Sheridan Smith. Will any of them impress Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora enough for them to turn in their seats? Emma Willis and Martin Humes are backstage with the contestants' families.

**8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Share Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin.

**9.25 Casualty.** The team struggles to remain professional while treating a child serial killer and the mother of one of her victims. Connie suggests Dylan should apply for the consultant's vacancy.

**10.15 BBC News:** Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the opening fifth-round matches, which included West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns and Blackpool Rovers v Stoke City at Ewood Park; National Lottery Update.

**11.35 The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the latest news from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bournemouth v Huddersfield Town.

**12.55 Film:** Wake Wood. (2010) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.30 Film:** A Double Life. (1947) **8.10** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **8.40** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **9.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **10.00** Six Nations Revind. **11.00 FA Cup Rewind:** Fifth-Round Classics. **12.00 A Taste of Britain.** **12.30 A Taste of Britain.** **1.00 Six Nations: Weather.** **1.30 Film:** The Treasure of Pancho Villa. (1935) Western, starring Roy Calhoun. **3.00 Film:** The Desperados. (1968) Western, starring Jack Palance. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.20 The Wonder of Animals.** (R) **5.50 The Great British Sewing Bee.** (R)

**6.50 Flap It!** The team visits Coventry Cathedral, where Will Axon and Michael Bagot value items including a collection of Clarice Cliff and a trio of watches. Presented by Paul Martin.

**7.35 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** New series. The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of innovations in six technologies, beginning by tracing developments in cleaning and sanitation.

**8.35 Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Maltby's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

**9.05 Simon Rattle: The Making of a Maestro.** Documentary following the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic over the course of a year as he prepares for a series of concerts, oratorios and operas with five different orchestras. The film also uses archive material to explore Rattle's career, including his days at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. There is also an interview in which he talks about his life and work and there are contributions by Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicholas Kenyon and Peter Sellars.

**10.05 The Dave Clark Five and Beyond: Glad All Over.** Documentary looking at the band and legend of the London band on the American music scene in the 1960s, when they spearheaded the British invasion alongside the Beatles.

**12.00 TOTP2: The 60s.** (R) **12.30 Film:** Telstar. The Joe Meek Story. (2008) **2.20** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Cannals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.30 Scrambled:** Scrambled. (R) **7.35 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monks. (R) **8.00 Scrambled:** Adventure Time. (R) **8.30 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50 Scrambled:** Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.30 ITV News:** Weather. **12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.35 The Unforgettable Larry Grayson.** (R) **2.05 The Chase.** (R) **3.05 Doc Martin.** (R) **4.05 Big Star's Little Star.** (R) **5.00 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.10 ITV News:** Weather. **5.25 You've Been Framed:** The Next Generation! (R)

**6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** The finalists – Christina Aguilera, Frankie Valli, Lady Gaga, Paloma Faith and last week's champion – return to battle it out for the coveted trophy. Last in the series.

**7.30 Planet's Got Talent.** Featuring a US grandmother with a knack for hip-hop, a human ken doll in Russia, a terrifying lesson in self-defence in Nigeria, and Dawn French's encounter with an obscene dancer.

**8.05 Take Me Out.** Club promoter Seeb, barman Ben, scuba-diving instructor Will and tailor Phil all hope to find their valentine among a line-up of 30 single women. Phil McGuinness hosts.

**9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by TV double act Ant and Dec, co-writer Creek star Alan Davies, Hollywood actress Goldie Hawn and Grammy-winning musician Diana Krall, who also performs.

**10.20 ITV News:** Weather. **10.35 Cricket World Cup Highlights.** Australia v England. Tom Skippings presents action from both teams' opening World Cup Pool A match, held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

**11.35 Film:** Ball of Fury. (2007) The film retells a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

**1.10 Jackpot247.** **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.** This is BBC Two.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05 Trans World Sport.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **12.00 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **1.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Fraser.** (R) **11.00 Frasier.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (S) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.30 Child Genius.** (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. **4.15 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.15 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **5.45 The Simpsons.** (R)

**6.10 The Simpsons.** Grampa bumps into a newspaper columnist who becomes fascinated with his life and writes a series of stories about him, but Homer becomes suspicious of the journalist's motives. (R)

**6.40 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 Our Guy in India.** Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clammers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania. (R)

**8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather.** An incide the size of a house causes a street to close in Canada as contractors attempt to remove it using chainsaws, and a mysterious green haze envelops Moscow.

**9.00 Film:** The Bourne Legacy. (2012) Premiere. The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the agents takes it upon himself to evade his captors and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Edward Norton.

**11.40 Film:** Sanctum. (2011) Thriller, starring Richard Roxburgh.

**1.40 The Last Leg.** (R) **2.40 Random Acts.** (R) **2.45 How We Rock.** (R) **4.55 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.50 Face the Clock.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants.** **10.35 Access.** **10.40 The Dog Rescuers.** (R) **11.05 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **12.05 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **1.00 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **2.00 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **3.00 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, with Peter Falk.

**6.20 5 News Weekend.**

**6.25 NCIS.** The team tries to track down Harper Dearing following the bomb attack on the NCIS headquarters, which has left Ziva and Tony trapped in a lift. (R)

**7.10 NCIS.** Part one of two. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship and later into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of his hidden past. (R)

**8.05 NCIS.** Gibbs emerges from his coma with amnesia, meaning he is unable to provide the team with vital intelligence regarding a terrorist plot. (R)

**9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The death of popular high-school chemistry teacher Chef Messener in a fire appears at first to have been an accident, but the CSIs notice an accelerant was used at the scene and deduce they may have a murder on their hands.

They discover Messener was until recently part of a secret coven at the school that had been dabbling in the arcane arts, and had also been selling steroids to the athletics team.

**10.00 Law & Order:** Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson search for a teenage boy who disappeared after revealing he had become sexually attracted to his much younger stepbrother, Christopher Meloni stars. (R)

**11.45 True Crimes:** The First 72 Hours. The rape of a nine-year-old girl is linked to the unsolved murder of a woman in Texas three years previously while DNA evidence proves the assaults were by the same person. (R)

**12.15 SuperCarrio.** **3.10** **10.00 BC.** (R) **4.00** **10.00 Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.15 Angels of Jarni.** (R) **5.40 Roar!** Face the Clock. (R)

## DIGITAL

## BBC Three

**7.00 Great Movie Mistakes.** **8.00 Top Gear.** **9.00 Film:** Tropic Thunder. (2008) **10.40 Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad.** **11.10 Family Guy.** **11.50 Crims 2.20 Uncle 2.50 South Side Story.** **3.20 Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad 3.50 Close BBC Four.**

**7.00 Amazon:** Unnatural Histories. **8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley.** **9.00 Spiral.** **10.40 Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe.** **11.10 Horizon:** Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth. **12.10 Horizon:** Swallowed by a Black Hole. **1.10 Top of the Pops:** 1980. **1.50 Love Songs at the BBC:** A Valentine's Day Special. **2.50 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley.** **3.50 Close ITV2.**

**11.05 The Cube:** Celebrity Special. **12.05 Educating Joey Essex:** Supermodel Student. **1.10 Film:** Small Soldiers. (1998) **3.20 You've Been Framed.** **4.15 Film:** She's the Man. (2006) **5.00 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip.** **10.55 Reality Bites.** (2005) **11.05 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show.** **11.15 Ibiza Weekender.** **12.15 Film:** I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry. (2007) **2.20 Totally Bonkers:** Guinness World Records 2.45 TeleShopping. **5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen.**

**11.25 The Big Fish Off.** **12.25 Hogan's Heroes.** **1.30 Counting Cars.** **2.30 Storage Wars.** **2.55 Film:** Blues Brothers. (2000) **5.30 Storage Wars.** **6.20 Storage Wars.** **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training. (1986) **9.00 Film:** Game of Death. (2010) **11.05 Film:** The Keeper. (2009) **1.10 River Monsters.** **2.05 Hogan's Heroes.** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00 TeleShopping.**

**11.35 Marry Me 12.00 New Girl.** **1.00 Melissa & Joey 2.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **3.30 How I Met Your Mother.** **5.00 Troy.** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 Film:** Run Fat Boy Run. (2007) **11.00 The Inbetweeners.** **12.10 How I Met Your Mother.** **12.40 2 Broke Girls.** **1.40 Troy.** **2.40 The Cleveland Show.** **3.25 Don't Tell Me the D\*\*\* in Apartment 234.** **4.10 How I Met Your Mother.** **4.30 Charmed.** **5.15 Rude(ish) Tube.**

**11.00 Bless This House.** (1972) **1.00 St Trinian's.** (2004) **3.00 Bucky Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.** (1969) **5.00 The Town of the Dinosaurs.** (2009) **6.55 One Day.** (2011) **9.00 The Brave One.** (2007) **11.25 Betty Blue.** (The Director's Cut) **1993. 3.05 Close**



**Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes**  
**(ITV, 6.30pm)**

Harry Hill has never been the sort of funnyman to play it safe, but is his version of Stars in Their Eyes too surreal for mainstream tastes? Some might think so. This looks like the latest failure for the ex-doctor who scored a smash with TV Burp, but the poor reception of stage musical I Can't Sing and Harry Hill: The Movie have left some fans wondering if he will eventually return to Burp. Let's hope so, but for now, settle back and enjoy possibly the last ever edition of his karaoke show. Christina Aguilera (Christie Holland), Frankie Valli (Peter Sarsfield), Lady Gaga (Emma Wright), Paloma Faith (Sharon Williams) and last week's champion hope they have what it takes to win the SITE final.

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## CHOICE

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Match of the Day Live. Aston Villa v Leicester City (kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Wales **5.35** BBC News; Regional News.

**6.00 Super Cute Animals.** Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan embarks on a global journey to find some of the world's cutest animals, aiming to understand why people find them so endearing and revealing the surprising science behind each different creature. He begins with the giant panda, whose unusually large head tells a story of millions of years of evolution and survival. Gordon also reveals how the fennec fox's ears are crucial to its survival, discovers the surprising secret behind a penguin's waddle and meets a five-year-old chimpanzee whose giggle reveals new information about man's evolution.

**7.00 Countryfile.** The pros and cons of the hunting ban in Gloucestershire, using pedal-power to exercise foxhounds and how motorway services on the M5 are being redefined for the 21st century.

**8.00 The Midwife.** A Christian Scientist couple refuse medicine for their newborn baby – a case that becomes more complicated when they are accused of harming their child.

**9.00 The Casual Vacancy.** New series. Drama adapted from the novel by JK Rowling, set in an English village whose seemingly idyllic facade hides a community at war. At the parish council meeting, chairman Howard Mollison introduces his plans to turn the community centre into a health spa, but he reckons without local solicitor Barry Fairbrother, who makes an impassioned speech about the importance of the centre to the impoverished people of the nearby estate. However, an unexpected turn of events leaves an empty seat on the council – leading to the biggest battle Pagford has ever seen. Michael Gambon, Rory Kinnear, Keeley Hawes and Julia McKenzie star.

**10.00 BBC News;** Regional News.

**10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup**

**Highlights:** Action from the latest fifth-round matches, including Aston Villa v Luton, City at Villa Park and Arsenal v Middlesbrough at the Emirates Stadium.

**11.20 The Apprentice USA.** The celebrities are back with producing a live cooking demonstration for a steak company, as well as creating and naming a new meat variety pack.

**12.45 Film:** Stolen. (2010) **2.10**

Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15 BBC**

News.

**6.00 BBC2**

## BBC2

**6.15 Great British Garden Revival.** (R) **7.15** Royal Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **11.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.50** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **1.30** Food & Drink: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.10** Open Country. (R) **3.40** To the Moon Car. (R) **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

**6.15 Ski Sunday.** Highlights from the annual winter championships from Vail/Beaver Creek in Colorado, including the men's giant slalom discipline.

**7.00 The Motorway Life in the Fast Lane.** Cattitude is a major interchange linking the M1 and A14 to the start of the M5, but now it's about to be redesigned at a cost of more than £190million to make it safer and less congested. Overseeing the work is construction manager Mark Sutton, who has to ensure the local residents are happy, as well as relocating a protected colony of great crested newts. Elsewhere, the Highways Agency and maintenance teams cope with the aftermath of an overturned lorry that split a cargo of milk on to the carriageway. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson compares BMW's M4 with its hybrid-powered i8 model and Richard Hammond pays tribute to the Land Rover. With guests Will Smith and Margot Robbie.

**9.00 Dragons' Den.** Ideas pitched include an anti-privity device for sailors, a children's bike horn, a brand of ice-cream with an east Asian flavour and a shopping app. Evan Davis presents.

**10.00 Modern Times: Mayfair.** Documentary about the characters who live and work in the area of central London, from an upmarket resident who dresses in Victorian clothing to a cabble living in social housing.

**11.00 Film:** The Quiet American.

(2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, who suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

**12.35 Film:** The Night of the Generals. (1967) **2.55** Countryfile. (R) **3.50** Holby City. (R) **4.50** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Cannibals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! (R) **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monks. (R) **7.45** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Beer Bits. **3.10** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15** Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

**6.35 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**7.00 Get Your Act Together.** Actress Nina Wadia (best known as EastEnders' Zainab) is mentored by mind reader Marc Paul.

Emmerdale's Roxi Shahidi (Leyla) joins contortionist Pixie Le Knot, TV presenter Matt Johnson is coached by tap dancers Tap Corps, former Strictly star Ruth Madoc teams up with mime artist Les Bubb, and pop twins Jedward collaborate with Jump Rope UK for some double-dutch skipping.

Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in next week's final.

**8.00 All Star Family Fortunes.** Retired Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba and newsreader Ranvir Singh team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

**9.00 My Seifridge.** Frank learns he may be terminally ill after a fall in Kitchy's attack. Harry realises his feelings for Nancy are stronger than he first thought, and Violette makes her move on Victor.

**10.00 ITV News;** Weather.

**10.20 Perspectives: Sheila Hancock – The Brilliant Bronte Sisters.** The actress explores the lives of the 19th-century literary family, setting out to discover what inspired them to write such epic novels seemingly worlds apart from their own lives. (R)

**11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.**

**12.10 The Stars.** **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** TV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15 NFL:** Rush Zone. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Flight of Ember. (2009) Fantasy adventure, starring Sophie Ronan. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

**6.05 A Place in the Sun.** Sara Danner helps Hull couple Peter and Julia Andrews find a holiday home in Fuerteventura on a budget of £60,000.

**7.00 The Hotel.** It's the end of the summer season and Mark prepares to bid farewell to the Cavendish, but he has more work on his mind as mum Stella recovers from a stroke in hospital. Hoping to secure his legacy at the hotel, the entertainment manager plans a lavish black-tie gala celebrating local family businesses, but with time running out, he admits to ex-colleague Alison that he's only sold 23 out of 70 seats.

**8.00 The Auction House.** New series. As the goods arrive for the week's sale at Lots Road Auctions, the valuers admire a pair of opulent dog beds, while a regular buyer helps a friend cut out her mansion.

**9.00 Indian Summers.** New series. Drama set in 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Ralph Whelan and the rest of the Indian Civil Service begin the annual move to Simla, while doyenne of the social scene Cynthia Coffin prepares the exclusively white British Club for the start of the summer season.

The train to Simla is delayed, however, when a boy is found collapsed on the railway tracks, while a mysterious assassin makes his way to the city.

**10.40 Gogglebox 2014.** Highlights from the reality show, featuring the nation's favourite armchair critics commenting on popular TV programmes as they watch them.

**11.40 Film:** Drag Me to Hell. (2009) A bank employee is cursed to suffer a series of misfortunes, but how to break the spell in three days before a demon takes her. Horror, with Alison Lohman.

**12.15 Film:** War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father's rare weekend with his two estranged children descends into horror when alien war machines rise from beneath Earth and begin to systematically destroy every human being in their path – leaving the man with the dangerous task of getting his kids to safety. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, based on HG Wells' novel, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chatwin, Miranda Otto and Tim Robbins.

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**12.15 Film:** War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father's rare weekend

**MONDAY****Act of Valor, Channel 5, 11pm**

A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatical terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. (2012)

**TUESDAY****Carry On Girls, ITV, 11.40pm**

The council of a seaside town is in dire need of a means to attract tourists to its resort, so announces a beauty contest. While the conniving organiser plots a series of publicity stunts, an outraged feminist group plans to sabotage the event. Comedy, starring Sid James, June Whitfield, Joan Sims, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw and Peter Butterworth. (1973)



Erin Brockovich, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

**WEDNESDAY****Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 10pm**

A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role. (2000)

**THURSDAY****AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC1, 11.45pm**

A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose - to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his 'mother', he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment. (2001)

**FRIDAY****2001: A Space Odyssey, BBC2, 11.05pm**

Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea. (1968)

**PICK OF THE WEEK****The truth will finally be revealed this week**

**O**n February 19, 1985, an icon was born. At 7pm, viewers heard Simon May and Leslie Osbourne's unforgettable theme for the first time before the opening scene – involving the discovery of pensioner Reg Cox's corpse by Dirty Den Watts and his pals.

Yes, EastEnders burst onto the TV landscape that night and has been a mainstay ever since, grabbing the attention with numerous controversial, gritty and enthralling headlines.

Who can ever forget Den handing wife Angie divorce papers on Christmas Day 1986, watched by over 30 million people? Or Kat announcing that she's Zoe's mother? Or even Frank turning up naked on Pat's doorstep? Now there's an image that can't be erased from the memory...

The latest massive storyline has involved the murder of Lucy Beale, which took place on Good Friday last year.

After almost 12 months of wondering whodunit, we should find out the truth in tonight's two

episodes and tomorrow's much-publicised live edition – but executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins claims there's even more excitement to come.

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we have set ourselves an enormous challenge – a week of live scenes, a form-breaking flashback, a live episode, story twists that will leave a lump in the throat and a few moments that will elicit genuine gasps from our audience."

The tension will have been building across the week, beginning on Tuesday with Barbara Windsor's return as battleaxe Peggy Mitchell. While much of Tuesday to Thursday's episodes have been pre-shot, live scenes will also be included on each night, just to spice things up a little – and no doubt keep the actors on their toes.

Tuesday will have been dominated by the fate of Ronnie Mitchell, and Wednesday by Ian and Jane's wedding, but it's Thursday and Friday that fans are most interested in.

Nick Cotton – yes, Nasty Nick, one of the soap's original characters – is

about to meet his maker. Kim goes into labour and secrets about the Mitchell clan come to light before Lucy's death takes centre stage once more.

Thursday's second episode sees Hetti Bywater return to the role in flashback, as the night of her murder is relived. The whole of Friday's edition will then be broadcast live, and following various revelations, it's fair to say that life in Albert Square may never be the same again.

"Everyone is really buzzing and excited about it," says actor Shane Richie of the live aspects of the anniversary. "We can't wait for it to come! You know it's a really big team effort and everyone's really excited about it. Obviously some have got more to do than others but the fact that we're involved in it is a blessing."

Will viewers think all the effort has been worthwhile once the week is over? Let's hope so – in fact, let's hope we're all tuning in again in another 30 years time as Walford turns 60, when we may be looking back at memorable moments that include the unveiling of Lucy Beale's killer.



Hetti Bywater stars as Lucy in EastEnders, Thursday, BBC1, 9.30pm

**BEST OF THE REST****MONDAY****Match of the Day Live****BBC1, 7.30pm**

Preston North End v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the concluding FA Cup fifth-round tie at Deepdale, as the League One hosts look to cause an upset. United have been drawn away from home to lower-league opposition in all three of their ties so far, and needed a replay to get past Cambridge United in round four, as did Preston, as they won 3-1 at Sheffield United. The sixth-round draw follows the match. Presented by Gary Lineker.

**UKIP: The First 100 Days****Channel 4, 9pm**

'What if' is one of the greatest, and occasionally most chilling premises for any drama, as Twilight Zone and Black Mirror have proved over the years. Occasionally Channel 4 also make one-off political dramas such as The Trial of Tony Blair, and this docu-drama from the producers of excellent Maisie Williams drama Cyberbully. It's set in a future where UKIP have won a shock victory in the 2015 general election, and Nigel Farage is Britain's Prime Minister. It follows the work of a newly elected MP, Deepa Kaur, UKIP's only female Asian MP enduring frontline politics during her first 100 days in office.

**TUESDAY****THE GIFT****BBC1, 9pm**

Matt Baker meets 51-year-old Jon Howe, who as a boy was the school bully. He is ashamed of the torment he dealt out to one boy in particular – Simon Pierce – and now wants to find his former classmate to apologise. But will Simon even want to see him, let alone forgive him? Mel Giedroyc hears from 46-year-old Lisa Whaymand, who was diagnosed with leukaemia but survived thanks to a bone-marrow transplant. Now she would like to meet her donor – despite their identities being kept anonymous.

**WEDNESDAY****WOLF HALL****BBC2, 9pm**

The Act of Supremacy has declared Henry the supreme head of the church in England, but Holy Roman emperor Charles V and his ambassador Eustache Chapuys refuse to recognise the new title or the monarch's divorce and subsequent marriage. With Anne pregnant and away from court, Henry begins to take more notice of

Jane Seymour, whose family enlist Cromwell's help in their dealings with the king – much to Anne's displeasure. Historical drama, starring Mark Rylance.

**THURSDAY****CUCUMBER****Channel 4, 9pm**

It may lack the sparkle and originality of his groundbreaking Queer as Folk, but Cucumber has nevertheless won over a new generation of fans and kept Russell T Davies' existing supporters more than happy. It's also introduced the world to an intriguing central character in Henry Best, the middle-aged insurance expert who has put his previously happy relationship with long-standing partner Lance on the line during a moment of madness. This week, his lies seem destined to catch up with him, potentially putting him on a collision course with everyone he loves.



Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Friday, ITV, 9pm

**FRIDAY****THE MUSKeteERS****BBC1, 9pm**

King Louis accepts an invitation to view the solar eclipse at the castle observatory of renowned astronomer Marmion, so Rochefort and a trio of Musketeers escort the courtiers. However, just as the sun is blocked out by the moon, a shocking turn of events leaves the royal party fearing for their lives. Just who is this Marmion and what is his game? Back at the garrison, Athos and Treville remain unaware of the danger faced by the king and their friends – until help arrives from an unexpected source. Tom Burke, Santiago Cabrera and Howard Charles star.

**Bear Grylls: Mission Survive****ITV, 9pm**

New series. Eight celebrities embark on a 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelter, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From abseiling down ferocious waterfalls to crossing perilous rapids, the stars face a range of challenges and Bear himself eliminates one of them each week, leaving three in the final. Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall, Emilia and Laurence Fox, Max George, Jamelia, Vogue Williams and Tom Rosenthal make up the team.

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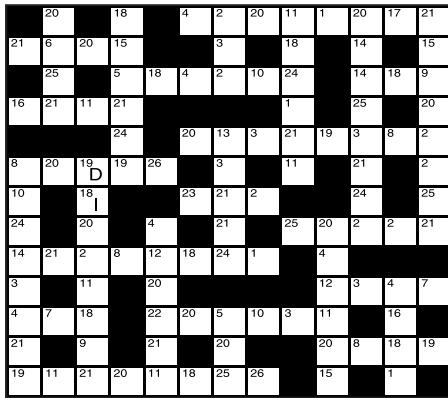
crossing borders into Cumbria and through the picturesque Eden Valley. You will have a couple of hours to explore the beautiful town of Carlisle, with its many shops, bars and eateries. Alternatively take a stroll round the castle, museums, cathedral or the Tullie House Museum.

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BY WEST COAST

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Q	P
S	X	C	U	J	O	B	G	W	V	K	R	H	N	

Z T D E L I Y F M K R H N

## Quiz

- Who chaired the arms-to-Iraq inquiry?
- What is recorded using a sphygmomanometer?
- Who painted the Rokeby Venus?
- Into which river do the Great Lakes drain?
- In which county was the churchyard of Thomas Gray's famous Elegy?
- In which country is the Great Bear Lake?
- For which element is Ba the symbol?
- Who was the commander of Apollo 11?
- Of which country was Yitzhak Rabin prime minister?
- Who wrote Les Fleurs du mal?

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

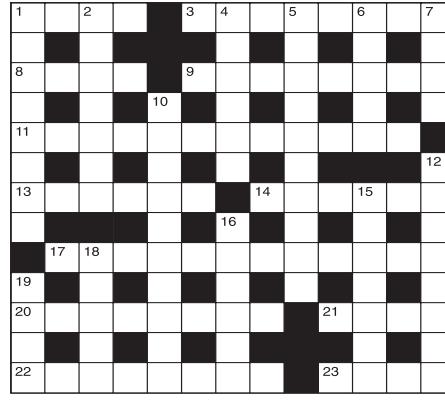
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- 1 & 3AC. He's most likely to succeed (4-8)
2. See 1 Across
3. How many removed from the Vatican in excommunication? (4)
4. By which Parliament votes for a large military unit (8)
11. Honesty is the necessary quality of a good ruler (12)
13. Interferes with the decoration, by the sound of it (6)
14. Make an attack in some of the fiercest R.A.F. expeditions (6)
17. Almost synonymous with evening-dress? (5-7)
20. Doing what Ivy does (8)
21. One in the vessel is a murderer (4)
22. This indicates the way to finish off secretarial correspondence (8)
23. Endlessly give one's attention to the boss (4)

## Down

1. Fine looking vehicle, we hear (8)
2. Eroding badly, but went unheeded (7)
4. An unfortunate state in which to make a solemn promise (6)
5. A falsehood by a whole group of people leads to estrangement (10)
6. Ways out for ten in different site (5)
7. Small container required before the end of the day (4)
10. What the dentist acting as a locum will do (4,3,3)
12. Dear ones thought things out differently (8)
15. What strange skill will get across! (7)
16. They make it possible to track down South American money! (6)
18. Giving confectionery a topping finish (5)
19. Scripture book put back in the oldest cathedral (4)
20. Bills (8)
21. Wise men (4)
22. Banish (8)
23. Remain (4)



## Quick Clues:

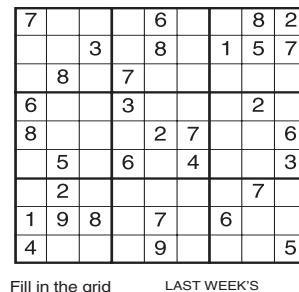
## Across

1. Snug (4)
3. Motion (8)
8. Approaching (4)
9. Each person (8)
11. Decrease in affection (12)
13. Blow (6)
14. Essential commodity (6)
17. Unconcern (12)
19. Bills (8)
21. Wise men (4)
22. Banish (8)
23. Remain (4)

## Down

1. Summarise (8)
2. Smash (7)
4. Plunder (6)
5. Imperious (10)
6. Contempt (5)
7. A vegetable (4)
10. Defamation (10)
12. Rashness (8)
15. Locket (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. New (5)
19. Jetty (4)

## Sudoku



FILL IN THE GRID BELOW SO THAT EVERY COLUMN, EVERY ROW AND EACH OF THE 3x3 BOXES CONTAINS ALL THE DIGITS FROM 1 TO 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Left-handers; 9 Hammers; 10 Anvilt; 11 Attic; 12 Sten-gun; 13 Roasted; 15 Sledge; 18 Stopper; 20 Pleat; 22 Ashes; 23 Stand-in; 24 Froggolds; Down: 2 Emmet; 3 Treacle; 4 Cuckoo; 5 Wicks; 6 Rosehip; 7 Theatre seat; 8 Clangstret; 14 Another; 16 Lapland; 17 Presto; 19 Paste; 21 Elder. QUICK - Across: 1 Contraption; 9 Estable; 10 Never; 11 Erode; 12 Certain; 13 Rescue; 15 Adhere; 18 Typical; 20 Urban; 22 Odour; 23 Genesis; 24 Remorseless; Down: 2 Outdo; 3 Tableau; 4 Agency; 5 Tenor; 6 Obituate; 7 Penetration; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Suppose; 16 Diurnal; 17 Aligns; 19 Cargo; 21 Basis.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Left-handers; 9 Hammers; 10 Anvilt; 11 Attic; 12 Sten-gun; 13 Roasted; 15 Sledge; 18 Stopper; 20 Pleat; 22 Ashes; 23 Stand-in; 24 Froggolds; Down: 2 Emmet; 3 Treacle; 4 Cuckoo; 5 Wicks; 6 Rosehip; 7 Theatre seat; 8 Clangstret; 14 Another; 16 Lapland; 17 Presto; 19 Paste; 21 Elder. QUICK - Across: 1 Contraption; 9 Estable; 10 Never; 11 Erode; 12 Certain; 13 Rescue; 15 Adhere; 18 Typical; 20 Urban; 22 Odour; 23 Genesis; 24 Remorseless; Down: 2 Outdo; 3 Tableau; 4 Agency; 5 Tenor; 6 Obituate; 7 Penetration; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Suppose; 16 Diurnal; 17 Aligns; 19 Cargo; 21 Basis.

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 12385 gives a large bird,  
439 gives a fish,  
876 gives another fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Refurbished farmhouse retains original features



**WESTVIEW** Farmhouse in Clive Road, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, is an attractive Grade II listed Georgian residence.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £599,950.

The house has been restored and refurbished to a high standard, retaining its charm and character, whilst all the convenience of modern appliances have been installed. It has a drawing room with inglenook fireplace, dining room, breakfast kitchen with utility, guest WC, study, cellar, four bedrooms, master bedroom with dressing room and en suite bathroom and a further house bathroom. There is a detached garage and rear gardens mostly laid to lawn but have an extensive entertaining terrace.

Call 01902 427257 or visit the website at [www.dbroberts.co.uk](http://www.dbroberts.co.uk)



## Extended detached character cottage

THIS charming, extended detached cottage of character and charm in Newbridge Avenue, Newbridge, Wolverhampton, has open views over playing fields at the side.

With possible extension potential, it is for sale through Jackson Lile at £315,000.

It has an dining room with bay window, inglenook fireplace and beamed ceiling, an extended lounge/sitting room with Minster stone fireplace and French doors to the garden, an extended and superbly fitted country kitchen with a breakfast area, pantry/utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, playroom/possible bedroom four in need of renovation with beams, dressing room/box room, garage, and a sunny rear garden.

Contact Jackson Lile on 01902 712812 or visit the website at [www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk](http://www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk)



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### 4 ELMWOOD RISE, SEDGLEY

- Detached house on the popular Northway Estate
- Four bedrooms with en suite shower room off bedroom one
- Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room & cloakroom
- Private attractively landscaped rear garden with excellent views

£249,950



£249,950



### 41 GROSVENOR ROAD, ETTINGSHALL PARK

- Detached house with three double bedrooms
- Extended & well maintained accommodation
- Extended 'L' shaped kitchen and utility area
- Larger than average attractively landscaped gardens

£219,950



### 50 CLAREMONT ROAD, SEDGLEY

- Traditional style detached house
- Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom
- Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room,
- Attractively landscaped westerley facing rear garden

Offers Around £199,950



### 75 NORTHWAY

£195,000

- Link detached house
- Well maintained & presented
- Three bedrooms
- Private rear garden

SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



### MOGUL LANE

- CRADLEY HEATH  
•Small new development of four detached houses  
•Spacious three bedroom accommodation  
•Cloakroom/wc & ensuite shower room  
•Built by Ling Developments  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATINGS TBC



### COSLEY

- Three bedroom semi detached house  
•Improved & extended accommodation  
•Living room & dining area, conservatory  
•Study/sitting room, large bathroom  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

13 BRENN RYDDING DRIVE OIRO £172,500



### DUDLEY

- Extended semi detached house  
•Three bedrooms  
•Extended through living room  
•Double glazing & gas central heating  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

10 CHESTNUT AVENUE OIRO £148,000



### 55A SPRING ROAD

- LANESFIELD  
•Modern three bedroom detached house  
•Extended, well maintained & attractively presented  
•Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location  
•Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

£139,950



### 179 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON

- Victorian terraced house having been subject to complete renovation works  
•Well proportioned accommodation with two large bedrooms  
•Re-fitted kitchen & spacious bathroom, two reception rooms  
•Private rear garden with concrete surfaced secure parking at rear  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

£137,950



### 21 STATION ROAD

OIRO £123,500

- Modern semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well proportioned accommodation
- Gas central heating

SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



### 35 PADARN CLOSE

- SEDGLEY  
•Modern terraced house  
•Three bedrooms  
•Ideal first time purchase / investment purchase  
•Shower room, car parking space  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

£122,000



### NEW

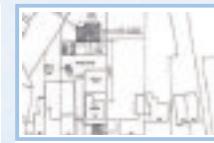
- 13 TURLS HILL DRIVE OIRO £105,000  
NO UPWARD CHAIN



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•First floor maisonette  
•Three bedrooms  
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•Two reception rooms, breakfast room  
•Gas central heating  
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£69,950



### BUILDING PLOT

- LOWER GORNAL  
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•Outline planning consent  
•Further details from Agent  
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£62,995



### TO LET

- 10 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE  
SEDGLEY  
•Semi detached house  
•Four bedrooms  
•Extended accommodation  
•Utility room & conservatory  
•Two reception rooms  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

£625 PCM



### TO LET

- 178 LYDE GREEN  
HALESOWEN  
•Extended semi detached house  
•Three bedrooms  
•Double glazing & gas central heating  
•Two reception rooms  
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

£625 PCM



### TO LET

- 238A HIGH STREET  
PENSNETT  
•Lower ground purpose built flat  
•Two bedrooms  
•Opposite Russells Hall Hospital  
•Close to local amenities  
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# Plenty of potential in a home to be modernised



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In need of modernisation and having gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a side garden with space for an extension subject to permission. There is a lounge/dining area with a front bay window and sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, a kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, garage and drive. Contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180 or visit [www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk](http://www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk)



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at Aston Villa Football Ground



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6 Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
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**8 Littleworth Avenue, Woodsetton**  
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Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



**65 Highfield Road, Dudley**  
4 Bedroom Detached Property  
Guide: £75,000



**49 Birmingham New Road, Tipton**  
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Guide: £55,000 plus



**4- 5 Ednam Road, Dudley**  
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£379,950



**GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road**

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with self contained GRANNY EXTENSION comprising: porch, hall, cloakroom, cellarette, lounge, dining room, kitchen with CONSERVATORY beyond. Three bedrooms, bathroom, loft. Inter communicating door to granny suite with hallway, lounge, kitchen, double bedroom with bathroom en suite. Parking & access to driveway to rear WORKSHOP & carport, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £279,950



**COSELEY, Southall Crescent**

EXTENDED gas centrally heated bungalow with THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room), bathroom, living-room uPVC CONSERVATORY, kitchen, utility roof space with skylights, DOUBLE GARAGE & parking, garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £215,000

**TREMENDOUS MONTH FOR SEDGLEY OFFICE!!**  
January 2015 was remarkably busy for our Sedgley office with 23 sales negotiated subject to contract (ie buyers finances verified and solicitors instructed).



**WOLVERHAMPTON, Sedgley Road, Penn Common**  
ENVIRABLY SITUATED within walking distance of Common, a SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached presented in EXEMPLARY CONDITION throughout comprising: reception area (with open fire), walk-in store, 15' living room, refitted hub of the house' breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking to front, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000



**GORNAL WOOD, Summit Place**

Tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home comprising: hall, cloakroom, transverse lounge, dining room, store, refitted kitchen with range of maple effect finish units. FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful gardens. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000



**DUDLEY, Aintree Way, Milking Bank**

Extended, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached on fine corner plot comprising: hall, lounge, transverse dining kitchen (French doors out to garden) utility, fitted cloaks: FOUR BEDROOMS, shower room with white suite. Garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £199,950, NOW £195,000



**LOWER GORNAL, Burns Grove, Straits**

Envirably situated in short/quiet cul-de-sac within reasonable walking distance of day-to-day shops, Post Office, country park etc., a gas centrally heated, part double glazed detached bungalow with IMMENSE POTENTIAL. Accommodation includes: enlarged reception hall, cloak cupboard, lounge, breakfast kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Garage, gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £185,000



**WOMBOURNE, Forge Valley Way**

An IMPRESSIVE 3 BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE on the fringes of beautiful open countryside, offering a VERY WELL APPOINTED/ BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED layout with LARGE FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a good sized level private rear garden. EPC: TBA



**COSELEY, The Paddock**

EXTENDED, double glazed, gas centrally heated detached by cricket ground comprising: entrance vestibule, hall, cloaks/ shower room, dining room, 16'9" lounge, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, 23'2" garage, garden brick store. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price £149,950

Offers in the region of £149,950



**WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane**

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,950



**TIPTON, Wood Street**

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached most conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities together with bus & RAIL transport routes comprising: hall, lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, dining room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved foregarden, delightful garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £140,000



**SEDGLEY/WOODSETTON, Roper Way**

Stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: entrance hallway, 16'10" lounge, under stairs store, REFITTED Kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom (heated floor). 17'3" x 10'1" garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000



**DUDLEY, Cardoness Place**

No UPWARD CHAIN. Stylish, double glazed, gas centrally heated, intermediate starter home with entrance hallway, lounge, recently refitted breakfast 'Avanti' kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, off road parking, garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



**LANSFIELD, Gordon Avenue**

Significantly modernised, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: entrance hallway, lounge, tremendous "hub of the house" dining kitchen with an extensive range of units/appliances and incorporating an "island" centre, pantry. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £114,950



**DUDLEY, Garrick Close, Earls Keep**

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, double glazed, CENTRALLY HEATED, 2nd Floor Apartment with "entry phone" system comprising hall, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen. Communal grounds, parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £117,950, NOW £112,000



**KINGSWINFORD, Furber Place**

This SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers IMMENSE POTENTIAL FOR RENOVATION in this attractive close and, already having minor specialist repair, offers TWO LARGE BEDROOMS, WITH DRIVE PARKING and rear GARDEN with trees beyond. EPC: D. REPORTS AVAILABLE

No upward chain Offers in the Region Of £99,950



**WOODSETTON, Brook Street**

Mid terrace for improvement with remarkable potential-surprisingly spacious accommodation provides: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 3 first floor bedrooms, steps to attic - garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £99,950

Kingswinford  
01384 401777

Brierley Hill  
01384 265265

Sedgley  
01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge, Halesowen and Bearwood



#### Wordsley, Barnett Lane

An EXTENDED & ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE within this highly desirable address, offering a SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM layout, plus LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE/STORE and a large rear garden which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC TBA



#### SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway

Gas centrally heated, double glazed EXTENDED three/four bedroom detached with potential. Occupying a fine corner plot (with distant views) extremely flexible room arrangements, large garage. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



#### WORDSLEY, Greenbank Gardens

A SUBSTANTIAL AND DISTINCTIVE, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which forms part of this small, exclusive cul de sac development of detached properties, offering an IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED arrangement of accommodation, including THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (master with EN-SUITE), plus a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and a PLEASANT SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. EPC D

£199,950

Offers in the region of £199,950

£195,950



#### Kingswinford, Kendall Rise

This SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED 3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE enjoys a BEAUTIFUL LONG AND SUNNY, SECLUDED GARDEN in a small and sought after cul de sac, offering WELL APPOINTED ACCOMMODATION, ALL VERY SPACIOUS throughout. EPC D



#### DUDLEY, Himley Road

Quirky, gas centrally heated, double glazed house comprising: hall, cloak, lounge, sitting room, breakfast room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower, dormer attic. Extensive grounds. Mining Search available. EPC:E. SEDGLEY



#### WOLVERHAMPTON, Ward Grove, Ettingshall Park

A stunning gas centrally heated, double glazed ENLARGED detached 'transformed' in recent months to an exemplary standard with entrance vestibule, Large hall, L shape 20ft living room, fitted breakfast kitchen with extensive range of units & appliances, fitted cloaks. Three bedrooms (one with shower, room en suite), bathroom ('whirlpool' bath), shortened garage, parking, good size rear garden. EPC:D. SEDGLEY



#### LOWER GORNAL/PENNETT, Snowberry Drive, 'Badgers Rise'

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow upon favoured development comprising: hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway. Two bedrooms. Lengthy driveway, garage, garden. EPC:D. SEDGLEY



#### WOODSETTON, Park Close

ENLARGED semi detached upon WIDE CORNER PLOT. The accommodation includes porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, pantry, dining room, brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, kitchen. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage, garden. EPC Rating T.B.C.

£179,950

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the Region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £156,450

Offers in the region of £150,000



#### ETTINGSHALL PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON, Ettingshall Park Farm Lane

A semi detached for modernisation in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, through living /dining room, enlarged kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, former garage, gardens. EPC Rating E



#### PENNETT, Hamble Close

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, STYLISH AND EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room with Dining Area, Modern Kitchen, Contemporary Bathroom, Separate W.C., Garage, Garden AND ALSO TWO GENEROUS FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS AND A VERSATILE LOFT SPACE with a VARIETY OF USES. EPC E



#### WOODSETTON, Parkes Hall Road

Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: porch, hall, store. Ground floor accomm. has been 'opened up' to provide lounge & kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Parking, garden, possible rear vehicular access (subject to licence fee to Council). EPC: D SEDGLEY



#### WORDSLEY, Marshall Crescent

A LUXURY SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT with SUPERB OPEN VIEWS only around THREE YEARS OLD, offering a GENEROUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout with TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. WITH ALLOCATED RESIDENTS CAR PARKING SPACE plus VISITOR SPACES. EPC C



#### COSELEY, Pemberton Road

Modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end terrace conveniently situated in well regarded district. Accommodation comprises: dining room, inner lobby, store, cellar, lounge, upgraded kitchen. Two bedrooms, spacious bathroom with a white suite. Private side access to secluded rear garden (NO RIGHTS OF WAY) with DOUBLE GARAGE (With driveway for additional parking for 2 cars). EPC: E SEDGLEY

Guide Price £125,000

£124,950

Offers in the region of £124,950

£118,500

Offers in the region of £116,450



#### COSELEY, Hartland Avenue

Comparatively spacious. Freehold, gas centrally heated & DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate home providing: entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking to front, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



#### Brierley Hill, Nagersfield Road

This VERY WELL PRESENTED, DECEPTIVELY LARGE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY would make the perfect FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME and comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway and Attractive Garden. EPC: E



#### Brierley Hill, Cooper Avenue

This REFURBISHED and MODERNISED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME has NEW GAS CENTRAL HEATING (07/14) and comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Modern Re-fitted Kitchen, Two First Floor BedRooms, Re-appointed Contemporary Bathroom and Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: E



#### UPPER GORNAL, Hilary Crest

GROUND FLOOR, gas centrally heated, Upvc double glazed Flat with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS comprising: reception hall, two double bedrooms, lounge, shower room, store, kitchen with 'beech' effect units. Allocated garden, two stores. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



#### COSELEY, Yew Tree Lane

75% SHARE FOR SALE, A GROUND FLOOR flat within walking distance of COSELEY RAILWAY STATION. Remaining 25% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental. Individual front door to 194' lounge with kitchen section beyond. TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, ample parking. Offers around £70,000 for 75% share. EPC Rating C.

Offers in the region of £99,450

£94,950

£84,950

New price WAS £85,950, NOW £82,950

Offers in the Region of £70,000

# Jon Stanier

01384 77877

Your satisfaction is our future!



### QUARRY BANK BIRCH AVENUE

Pleasantly situated on a "corner plot" in this popular address, this attractively presented and improved 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Porch, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Living Room, Kitchen, Large useful Outhouse, 3 Very Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Restyled Bathrooms with shower. Driveway for 2 Cars and Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with private outlook. EPC=E

Offers around £114,950



### BRIERLEY HILL MOOR STREET

This superbly refurbished 3 Bed Semi provides outstanding spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family. First Time Buyer or Investor. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, spacious Lounge, superb large Dining Kitchen with built-in oven, hob, fridge and freezer, Downs W.C., 3 good Bedrooms, re-appointed "contemporary" styled Bathroom with walk-in shower, large double glazed southerly facing aspect and foregarden (left ready for summer landscaping). EPC=TBC

Offers around £114,950



### BROCKMOOR CAMPBELL STREET

This delightfully presented, lovingly maintained 3 Bed Intermediate Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family of First Time Buyer and is pleasantly situated in this ever popular address. - Attractive Lounge, sep Dining Room, attractively fitted Kitchen, Refitted Shower Room, 3 good sized Bedrooms, a good sized low maintenance Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect. EPC=E

Offers around £89,950



### BRIERLEY HILL LANCASTER ROAD

This attractive 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family in this popular and very convenient Cul-de-sac. Hall, Spacious 1' Shaped Lounge with Dining Area, Sitting Room, Room "A", Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, integrated Fridge/Freezer, 3 Excellent Bedrooms, Sumptuous Re-Fitted Bathroom with shower. Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with South Westerly facing aspect, and Driveway for 2/3 cars to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £157,500



### BRIERLEY HILL FOXDALE DRIVE

This attractive 3 Bed Intermediate Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family and is pleasantly situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, ELEGANT CONSERVATORY. Study/Playroom/4th Bedroom, 3 good sized Bedrooms, large fitted Bathroom with corner bath and shower, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with pleasant outlook and driveway for 2 cars. EPC=D

Offers around £137,500



### QUARRY BANK LAWNSDOWN ROAD

This attractively presented and lovingly maintained 3 Bed Semi-Detached has had one owner from new and provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and (mostly Upvc) double glazed accom ideal for the discerning young family and is pleasantly situated in this ever popular address. Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, side Lobby and Utility, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, pleasant low maintenance rear Garden, GARAGE to rear with rear vehicular access and driveway to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £132,500



### BILSTON/COSELEY BATMANSHILL ROAD

RECENTLY RECARPETED AND DECORATED, pleasantly and conveniently situated in this popular address this attractively styled Modern 3 Bed Semi provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family. Hall, Downstairs W.C., separate Dining Room, Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, Lawned Rear Gardens and block paved driveway. EPC=D

Offers around £129,950



### BRIERLEY HILL WALDRON AVENUE

This attractively presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time buyer and is pleasantly situated in this popular address. Hall, Spacious Lounge, REFITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, 3 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower. Pleasant good sized Rear Gardens with pleasant southerly facing aspect and backing onto Canal and Block Paved Driveway to the Front. EPC=D

Offers around £97,500



### QUARRY BANK MONTGOMERY CRESCENT

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient cul-de-sac, this 3 Bed Intermediate Townhouse provides deceptively spacious well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires certain upgrading and improvement represents a splendid opportunity. Hall, Downstairs W.C., NO UPWARD CHAIN the accom includes: Porch, Hall, spacious Lounge, separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., 3 very well proportioned Bedrooms, Shower Room and pleasant good sized rear Garden. EPC=E

Offers around £94,950



### BRIERLEY HILL BELL STREET

A relatively 'unique' 3 Bed First Floor Flat pleasantly situated in this very convenient address close to the Town Centre, providing superbly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family. First Time buyer or Investor. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, SPACIOUS FITTED KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED OVEN AND HOB, 2 BEDROOMS, Bath/Shower Room with shower, pleasant shared rear garden and allocated car parking space. EPC=D

Offers around £87,500



### HOLLY HALL BUXTON ROAD

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address, this 3 Bed Terraced provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires a little tender loving care but offers tremendous further potential. Briefly comprises: Spacious Lounge, sep Sitting/Dining Room, large Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Downstairs Shower Room, 2 well proportioned BedRooms and small enclosed yard/garden to the rear. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC=C

Offers around £79,950



### BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW

This attractively presented Modern One Bed First Floor flat provides deceptively spacious double glazed accom which is in excellent condition and popular and convenient development. Ideal for the First Time Buyer, young couple or single person. Briefly comprises: Exclusive Entrance Hall, Landing, spacious "open plan" Lounge with ATTRACTIVELY FITTED MODERN KITCHEN, Double Bay Window, 1 BedRoom, RECENTLY BATHROOM, communal Kept Gardens and allocated Car Parking Space immediately to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £62,995

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## PROPERTY

# Improved semi-detached can boast own sunroom



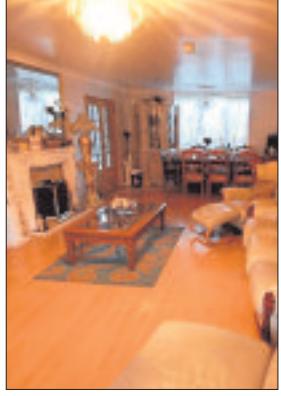
THIS improved three-bedroom semi-detached property in Barlow Road, Wednesbury, is for sale through Connells at £135,000.

With ample off-road parking, double glazing and majority gas central heating, it has a lounge with wall-mounted fire, kitchen with tile effect laminate flooring and door to sunroom with laminate flooring, three bedrooms, bathroom, slabbed garden with two sheds and a front driveway.

Call 0121 5562338 or visit [www.connels.co.uk](http://www.connels.co.uk)



## End of terrace with two lounges and bathrooms



THIS THREE-BEDROOMED end of terrace property in Hall Street East, Wednesbury, has spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £130,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a spacious lounge, further dining room/lounge, and a modern kitchen with range of base and wall units, roll edge work tops, built in extractor hood, stainless steel sink and draining and tiled flooring.

The double bedroom has the benefit of built-in wardrobes and there are two further bedrooms. The house has two bathrooms, one with bath and the other with shower.

The property also has a rear garden. For further information contact Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit [www.goodchilds-uk.com](http://www.goodchilds-uk.com) website.

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**Tividale  
City Road**  

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

**£525pcm**

**Tipton  
Harper Grove**  

- Four bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Lounge with juliet balcony

**£675pcm**

**Tipton  
Hill Street**  

- Fully fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage
- Rear garden

**£650pcm**



**Tipton  
Hellier Avenue**  

- Two bed semi
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- ORP

**£525pcm**

**Tipton  
Wynn Griffith Drive**  

- Kitchen with oven and hob
- Bathroom with shower
- Landscaped gardens

**£395pcm**

**Tipton  
Wynn Griffith Drive**  

- One bedroom semi
- Ideal for young families or working professionals

**£395pcm**



**Tipton  
Hill Street**  

- Gas central heating (where specified)
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Private garden

**£650pcm**



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**35 East Parkway, Wolverhampton**  
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property  
Guide: £44,000 - £49,000



**5 Dresden Close, Lanesfield**  
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



**16 Hinchcliffe Avenue, Wolverhampton**  
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
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**8 Littleworth Avenue, Dudley**  
3 BedroomSemi Detached Property  
Guide: £44,000 - £49,000



**8 Madin Road, Tipton**  
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
Guide: £44,000 - £49,000



**127 Bruford Road, Wolverhampton**  
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property  
Guide: £44,000 - £49,000



**3 Broadstone Close, Wolverhampton**  
3 Bedroom Link Detached Property  
Guide: £75,000 plus



**53 Prosser Street, Wolverhampton**  
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property  
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



**174 Appleton Grove, Great Barr**  
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
Guide: £50,000 plus



**3 Gladys Terrace, Smethwick**  
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#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### DINGLE ROAD

**FOR SALE £130,000**

Commercial Premises currently being leased, residential premises comprising of Own entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. Shop comprises of serving/preparation area, further preparation/storage, toilet.

#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### BACK ROAD

**FOR SALE £180,000**

Modern Town House comprises of; Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge & Bedroom One with En Suite, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Built In Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage.

#### TIVIDALE



NEW

#### BEATRICE WALK

**£495 pcm\***  
End of Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### BRAITHWAITE DRIVE

**£575 pcm\***  
Semi Detached Property, Corner Plot, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

#### BRIERLEY HILL



NEW

#### FOXDALE DRIVE

**£475 pcm\***  
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Front & Side Gardens, Off Road Parking

#### COSELEY



NEW

#### ANDERSLEIGH DRIVE

**£395 pcm\***  
First Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

#### DUDLEY



NEW

#### DIBDALE STREET

**FOR SALE £117,500**

End terrace property comprising of Entrance Hall with original tiled floor, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Large Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing (where specified), Gas Central Heating, Small Frontage, Rear garden.

#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### MOUNT PLEASANT

**FOR SALE £225,000**

Extended Semi Detached House with Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Study/Dining Room, Lounge, Conservatory, Play Room, Ground Floor WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms with shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking.

#### WORDSLEY



NEW

#### WESTMINSTER ROAD

**£650 pcm\***

Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, En Suite to Master, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gardens on 3 Sides, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

#### PENSNETT



NEW

#### MADISON AVENUE

**£695 pcm\***

Modern Town House, Entrance Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En Suite to Master, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking

#### STOURBRIDGE



NEW

#### AUDNAM

**£750 pcm\***

New Build Coach House, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Good Sized Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, House Bathroom, Two Parking Spaces, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### BARNETT LANE

**£750 PCM\***

Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

#### WORLDLEY



NEW

#### LOWER GORNAL

**£650 pcm\***

Modern Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Downstairs Cloakroom, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, En Suite to Master, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

#### WORDSLEY



NEW

#### CENTRAL DRIVE

**£550 pcm\***

Semi-Detached House, Good Sized Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

#### CROWNAKES DRIVE

**£475 pcm\***

Modern Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Mains Gas, Communal Grounds, Allocated Parking Space, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

#### KINGSWINFORD



NEW

#### KINGSWINFORD

**£450 pcm\***

Refurbished First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Available Immediately.

#### TEMPLE STREET

**£495 pcm\***

Mid Terrace House, Good Sized Living Room, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Garden to Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

#### BEECH ROAD

**£450 pcm\***

Refurbished First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Available Immediately.

#### SUMMER STREET

**£500 pcm\***

Semi-Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

## PROPERTY

# Delightful detached is in a popular development



THIS delightful four-bed-roomed detached house in Bartleet Road, Smethwick, occupies a pleasant position on a popular development.

It is for sale through Taylors at £279,950. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, sitting room/study, lounge with archway to dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen and a utility, downstairs WC. There are four bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), re-fitted house bathroom, rear garden and large double garage.

Contact Taylors on 0121 4344345 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



# Family semi is in perfect location for commuting

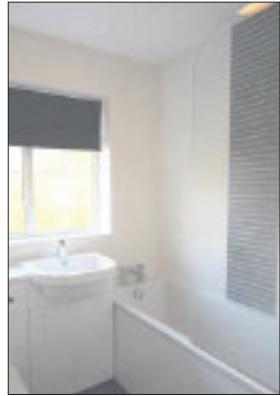


THIS well-presented three-bed-roomed semi-detached house, 10 Rudyard Close, Moseley Green, Wolverhampton, is ideal for commuting, with the A449 Stafford road and M6 close by.

Yet it is still close to country-side. The property is for sale through Rees Page at £154,950.

With double glazing, it has a reception hall, lounge with fireplace, kitchen/diner with gas hob and double oven, extractor and laminate flooring, utility, garage, three bedrooms (two with storage), a modern bathroom with shower and a bath, a driveway and gardens.

For further details call 01902 577799 or visit [www.reespage.net](http://www.reespage.net) website.



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NO LET NO FEE NO SALE NO FEE

# Infiniti Q70, pulse racing

By James Parker

**The long-awaited 2015 Q70, the flagship saloon from Infiniti has just landed and is set to cause quite the storm.**

The designers at Infiniti have embraced their performance philosophy with the new Q70.

With changes externally, internally and under the bonnet the results are an elegant yet striking sports saloon which exudes attitude on the outside with its new shape LED headlights and chromes accents on

the front grille. Inside it still retains the class and elegance we have come to expect of an Infiniti vehicle.

Available in both Premium and Sports versions, the 2.2 diesel holds the fort with a stirring 170PS and 400 NM of torque while the 3.7-litre V6 petrol engine smashes through the gears accelerating from 0 - 63 mph in just 5.3 seconds.



**'The designers at Infiniti have embraced their performance philosophy with the new Q70.'**

inch wheels and ventilated leather seats; enough to make question all those who part with much more to receive much less when purchasing from the other top luxury brands.

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# Sixth Astra shines on among the hatchbacks

By David Banner

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Some cars have more to live up to than others and the Vauxhall Astra is one that's saddled with particularly high expectations. The sixth generation model in Vauxhall's Astra line has been designed to push on from where the fifth left off.

That means competing at the very top of the family hatchback class, preferably administering a sound thrashing to the mighty Ford Focus in the process. If the full scale of this ambition is to be realised and the Astra is to sweep all before it in the hatchback arena, it will need to be very good indeed and so will its diesel engines.

Diesel is very much where it's at for cars like the Astra at the moment. The low cost, long distance potential of oil-burning cars makes them a perfect fit with the mile-munching fleet and business users that account for the lion's chunk of sales in this market.

It's not a bad shout for private buyers either. The Astra has nothing particularly groundbreaking in its enginebay to excite diesel aficionados because its oil-burning engines have been seen before in the previous generation Astra. All are solid units, however, and the Astra's designers are banking on other aspects of the car's make-up to move the game forward.

The ride and body control are assured and tight respectively as the car flows over the surface feeling well planted through bends. The steering is something of a let down by comparison and could be more precise but a slick gearshift and well-judged pedal weights go in the plus column. Generally, the Astra is a highly polished drive.

With five doors, the Astra isn't what you would call dramatic to look at but it's easy to appreciate its sharp, sculptural lines and they tend to grow on you as you take in the bodywork's nuances. Crisp, gently curving lines run across the flat surfaces and those familiar with the MkV Astra will notice the roofline dropping away at the rear along with the more muscular shoulders. The rear light clusters are a particularly neat touch with their chevron motifs.

### Steering

Vauxhall wanted the Astra to feel special from the driver's seat and by family hatchback standards, it does. Switchgear lifted from the larger Insignia is very much in evidence from the steering column to the over-buttoned main console. There are some nice design touches such as the way the dash swoops around to integrate with the doors and door pulls themselves. The use of light is clever with soft red illumination seeping out of the gap around the base of the gear lever and the red laser pointers that shine from the tip of the needles in the stylish instrument cluster.

There's plenty of space for a couple of six-footers in the back so long as the front seats aren't right back on their runners. There's even an abundance of headroom back there, despite the car's plunging roofline. In the boot, a 370-litre capacity reveals itself which isn't enormous for the class but higher spec models get a neat FlexFloor underfloor compartment that improves matters.

The trim levels range for the Astra opens with the S models and that's followed by the Exclusiv. Even the basic models get a CD stereo with MP3 compatibility and an AUX socket, electric heated mirrors, remote central locking, a rake and reach adjustable steering wheel and a 60:40 split rear bench. For the fetching ambient lighting, you'll need to stretch to the Exclusiv. Above this level, there's the choice of going sporty with an Sri or taking a more luxurious route with the SE or, ultimately, the Elite.

Only the 1.3-litre unit and the 109bhp 1.7-litre diesel are offered with the S and Exclusiv trim levels and neither engine can be specified with Elite trim but otherwise, there's a lot of mix and match potential. The 2.0-litre oil-burner is available with a smooth six-speed automatic and the FlexFloor adaptive suspension is an option on the higher spec cars.

The headline economy figure is 67mpg for the Astra ecoFLEX which features various mechanical and aerodynamic modifications to make this possible. Fuel economy for the 1.7-litre diesel is the same no matter which power output you choose and at 60mpg on the combined cycle, these units are certain to be popular with company car drivers.

Interestingly, the 2.0-litre diesel is only fractionally thirstier with 57.6mpg but the automatic gearbox option sees that figure tumble to under 48mpg. CO2 emissions are 124g/km for the 1.7-litre cars and 129g/km for the 2.0.

The latest Astra is larger and of tangibly higher quality than the car that went before it. The elegant, intelligently designed cabin feels special and the driving experience is just as well judged.

Those after the last word in family hatch sportiness might prefer a Focus and the Golf retains the edge on quality but its blend of abilities puts Vauxhall's effort is right up where it needs to be.

## Hales are victors in must-win game

**Old Halesonians 31  
Scunthorpe 10**

THIS was a must win game for Hales.

Both sides immediately tested each others defences.

The visitors took the initiative through a strong rolling maul, which eventually led to the first points of the day with a well-taken drop goal after 15 minutes.

Wing Warren Oliver offloaded the ball to the ever present Tom Jordan to score, converted by Chris Hooper.

Then came the unexpected try of the game. Hales won a line out on half way and Mark Evans co-ordinated a driving maul,

Loosehead prop, Padian received the ball and ran at the opposition selling an outrageous dummy.

On the opposition 22 he sold another dummy to the full back for a classic try converted by Hooper. Despite the lead, Scunthorpe were still in this game. On 47 minutes centre Andy Robinson. He split the defence to score.

From a scrum, Bown rounded the inside centre for a try which he converted for a 26-3 lead. Jordan then went over for his second try of the game.

Scunthorpe scored a consolation try.

## Duffy's shot enough for the victory

**AFC Tipton 0 FC Stafford 1**

THOMAS Duffy was the

goal hero as FC Stafford

claimed a 1-0 away win at

AFC Tipton in West Mid-

lands Division Two.

He forced the ball home

early in the second half

when Andy Willacy's drive

flew across goal.

In a hard-fought game of few chances, Stafford had a second-half penalty claim rejected after Willacy tumbled in the box as he chased Charlie Marshall's through ball.

Jake Robinson and Daniel Clarke were both drafted in for rare starts while Tom Waldron moved out of the back to join Robinson and Matt Rhodes as the midfield trio.

IT was a disappointing weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as the final fixture of the Birmingham Cross Country League saw them drop down to the Third Division.

Prior to the race the league table looked decidedly healthy with the blue hoops placed 13th of the 18 teams in the Second Division and with a near 200 point cushion between them and the final relegation place, things looked optimistic.

With Nuneaton Harriers and Centurion RC looking cast adrift the final relegation place was a straight dogfight between Sev-

## Running

ern AC, Tamworth, Newcastle Staffs, DK and Trentham.

It appeared all that was needed was for DK to perform as they had done in the previous three fixtures and keep their fingers crossed that the other clubs wouldn't pull a performance out of the bag.

Although there were a handful of absences, the hoops were still able to field what appeared to be a strong squad. Ben Foster led the club home in 14th place finishing

in 32.30, Rob Sannwald was 79th in 35.46, Kevin Duckworth 80th in 35.47, James Wright was 117th in 37.10, Darran Bishop came 131st in 37.53 and Dave Norman finished in 38.36 in 148th place to give the A team a total of 569 and 14th place.

Of the remaining club members Mark Gatenby was 160th, Brian Preston 165th, Daren Thompson 169th, Gary Bonner 172nd, Mark Gallimore 176th, Simon Hughes 179th, Steve Wood 191st, Graham Wildgoose 194th, Paul Silk 200th, John Andrews 221st and Rory Campbell 228th. Despite their best efforts this was not enough

to secure Second Division status as Severn AC, Tamworth, Newcastle Staffs and Trentham all scored fewer points than DK on the day, and where fewer is better this was enough to put them in peril.

As the dust settled the final league table showed DK relegated by a single point. The women's race was far less dramatic with DK finishing 33rd of the 37 teams competing on the day and 20th of 30 in the Second Division of the Midlands League with Carol Fisher finishing in 166 in 30.47, Lynn Sprague in 184th in 31.56 and Marie Latreche in 189th in 32.16.

## Slater battles a cold at Aldersley

DESPITE suffering from a cold all week Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers (Dash) athlete Lee Slater still managed a great second place in the fourth and final race in Division 2 of the Birmingham League cross country at Aldersley in Wolverhampton.

Lee held on to eventual winner Ross Jones of W&B for more than half of the race before the week's lack of training took its toll and he had to settle for the runner-up spot.

But with his second, Lee battled through and secured the overall individual winner for both the best of three races and all four races.

Dash finished ninth on the day and dropped to seventh overall from the 18 teams, but the club still gave a good team performance as Dave Nation had another solid run for 30th as Ian Mansell who had already won a park run in the morning finished 54th.

Junior Alex Ashfield in his first senior cross country ran well for 62nd as Scott Palmer was 107th and Jordan Smith 146th to give the club a points score of 401pts.

Joe Bolton, who came in at 177th place, completed the meeting for Dash runners.

## Varnish is picked for Team GB

JESS VARNISH and Andy Tennant have both been included in the Great Britain team for the Track World Championships later this month.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish leads the women's sprint squad, which also features former heptathlete Katy Marchant.

Tennant, from Wolverhampton, is in a men's endurance team that includes Steven Burke and will contest the team pursuit on the opening day of the February 18 to 22 competition.

Olympic champion Burke has recovered from a broken collarbone to make the tourname in Paris.

Champion Joanna Rowsell leads the women's endurance group.

# Yeltz put a dent in Buxton's title hopes

**Halesowen Town 2 Buxton 1**

**HALESOWEN'S** impressive run of form continued with another spirited performance to topple title-chasing Buxton.

The Yeltz soon put the Bucks on the back foot as Iyseden Christie and Tom Tonks both went close before a ninth-minute cross from Aaron Griffiths was turned over his own bar by Jamie Green.

Christie then latched onto Kris Green's deep cross to rattle the Buxton post in the 12th minute and Tonks controlled well in the 28th minute before dragging his shot wide.

The Yeltz deservedly took the lead a minute before half-time as Danny Bragoli headed a Tonks corner back across goal for Ben Haseley to convert from close range and get his side on the score-board.

Halesowen doubled their advantage after an hour when the tireless Aaron Forde played a delightful forward pass through for leading scorer Christie.

Christie sidestepped his last man and fired home his 16th goal of the season with a low drive.

The goal-frame saved Buxton again in the 66th minute when Bragoli won possession down the right and his cross was met by Joe Hull's header, only for the ball to rebound off the crossbar much to the relief of the visitors.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sergeant tipped a 72nd-minute overhead kick from Buxton substitute Mark Reed over the bar and then earned praise when he somehow kept out Ash Palmer's 81st-minute header with the

## Football

help of the post. But Greg Young eventually headed Buxton's consolation goal with Liam Hardy's cross with the last action of the game deep in stoppage time.

The Yeltz, now stand unbeaten in seven league games, have moved up to ninth place in the Evo-Stik Premier table.

There was a solemn moment before the match when a minute's silence was held before the kick-off in memory of former Hale-sowen groundsman and committee member Phil Lloyd, who sadly died earlier in the week.

**Halesowen Town:** Sergeant; K Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Charlton, Tonks, Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown 84), Bragoli.

**Subs not used:** Kettle, Turner, MacKenzie, Pearson (GK).

**Buxton:** Ollershaw; Byrne, J Green, Niven (Reed 53), Palmer, Young, Taylor, Wilson, Tuton, Hardy, Stevens.

**Subs not used:** Doyle, Ryan, Jameson.

**Referee:** Mark Howes.

**Attendance:** 507.



Halesowen's Ben Haseley challenges for the ball during the match against Buxton. Picture Dave Hawley



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# SPORT

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Tividale trample all over Tulips

**Spalding Utd 0 Tividale 2**

TIVIDALE continued with their impressive away form with a disciplined and well deserved victory at high-flying Spalding United.

The Tulips were on a 15-game undefeated run in Evo-Stik Division One South stretching back four months and started the game in impressive form when Adam Jackson sent a 25-yard drive high and wide after seven minutes.

Tividale went ahead on 24 minutes when a Foster free-kick was headed down by Richard Huckfield and Jordan Archer turned and volleyed home past Tulips keeper Michael Duggan.

The Lincolnshire outfit went in search of an equaliser and Thurlbourne forced Tividale keeper Charlie Price into a save from 12 yards after the visitors failed to clear their lines.

On 66 minutes Spalding's chance of getting back into the game went when Adam Jackson was given a straight red card for a wild challenge on Tividale right-back Chris Field.

On 76 minutes another Thurlbourne free-kick was deflected wide before Tividale sealed the points as Duggan dropped a Tividale corner and Huckfield forced the ball over the goal line.

Tividale almost scored a third in stoppage time.

**Whitehouse in Team rescue**

**St Martin's 3 Team Dudley 3**

STEVE Whitehouse volleyed an 89th-minute equaliser to give Team Dudley a share of the points against St Martins.

The promotion-chasing visitors were 2-0 up after 21 minutes of the West Midlands Division One match, thanks to headed goals by Daniel Graham and Shawn Melusi.

Mitch Blackham gave Dudley a chance with another headed goal from James Hill's free-kick a minute before the interval, and six minutes after the break Ryan Spittle tapped home to level the scores after Hill's shot from edge of box was saved.

Melusi got his second in a goalmouth scramble to restore Saints' lead in 64 minutes, but Whitehouse came to the rescue to make the final score 3-3.

## DK downed

Single point sees runners relegated

**Page 47**

## Title dent

Yeltz knock back hopes for Buxton

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## Glassboys' winning streak brought to an end

**Frickley Athletic 1 Stourbridge 0**

STOURBRIDGE were left to rue what might have been at Frickley Athletic.

The Glassboys headed to West Yorkshire targeting a third straight win in the Evo-Stik Premier but were punished for not making the most of their chances.

They also failed to take advantage of playing against 10 men for much of the final third of the match.

Stourbridge's best chance of the first half arrived in the 26th minute when Kayleden Brown's pass put Brian Smilke clear but his shot was too close to Athletic keeper Sam

### Football

Leigh.

Frickley capitalised six minutes later when Stour defender Leon Miles' clumsy challenge on Luke Hinsley resulted in a spot-kick that was calmly converted by Matt Bloor.

A header by John Cyrus just cleared the Stourbridge bar as the Blues pushed forward looking for a second goal.

And Dean Coleman's sharp save prevented Athletic from doubling their lead

through a Reece Thompson lob soon after the break.

In the 63rd minute, Frickley's Matt Young saw red for a last-ditch challenge on Luke Benbow as the Glassboys striker bore down on goal.

Stour threw on Dayle Kenny and Josh Morgan-Parker to try to seize the initiative against the 10 men.

They laid siege to the hosts' goal with Leon Broadhurst's fierce shot thwarted by Leigh before Tyrone Williams' saw his effort scrambled off the line by Macauley Parkinson.

Frickley defended stoutly for the remaining minutes to claim all three points.

The Glassboys remain in 11th place in the league table.

**Frickley Athletic:** Leigh, Stannard (Parkinson 45), Jeffs, Young, Cyrus, Broadhead, Hornsey, Bloor, Thompson, Hinsley, Riley (Johnson 87). **Subs not used:** Payne, Rose, Hood.

**Stourbridge:** Coleman, Smilke, Miles, Williams, Richards, Brown, Connolly (Morgan-Parker 67), Broadhurst, Benbow, Fitzpatrick (Kenny 72), Knight. **Subs not used:** Quaynor, Kalenda, Tyre.

**Wolves 'have lost sparkle'**

KENNY Jackett defended his tinkering and insisted the play-offs remain a realistic target – but admitted Wolves have lost their "sparkle".

The head coach made five changes for Saturday's clash with Reading but Wolves lost their eight-match unbeaten run as they were beaten 2-1.

Wolves are now five points off the top six in eighth place and face trips to bogey team Huddersfield tomorrow and Norwich on Saturday.

Jackett replaced the injured Carl Ikeme and Scott Golbourne with Tomasz Kuszczak and Kortney Hauss at the weekend and also drafted in Matt Doherty, Lee Evans and Bakary Sako for Dominic Iorfa, Jack Price and Nouha Dicko.

But he insisted the changes weren't due to the heavy schedule this week.

"No. It was all about Saturday, to try to win the game and get us back into it," he said.

"At the start of the second half we weren't in a bad position, drawing 1-1 at home.

"We couldn't get enough going – we looked flat – and that was the frustration."

**No guarantees over Cleverley**

VILLA midfielder Tom Cleverley is not guaranteed a starting role, says boss Paul Lambert.

Cleverley, on loan from Man Utd, was jeered by some home support when he was substituted in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Chelsea.

Lambert said: "You try and pick a team you think will win a game."

**The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, February 12**

## DK FIGHTBACK COMES TOO LATE

Dudley Kingswinford 14 Sutton 43

**DK have been suffering yet another miserable season.**

However, considering that they were 38-0 down an hour into the game they did dig their heels in and show there is still fight there. The last quarter of this game showed the true DK "Dog" or team spirit.

If you take it as a separate statistic then DK actually won this quarter of the game 14-5, and it presented a truer picture of the way the team would like to be playing consistently.

It started with a period of ball retention by DK, with the ball being moved through the phases and territorial pressure being applied to Sutton, and their defence being stretched as the home side sought to get back into the game after being shut out for most of it.

They established themselves in the Sutton half again, and were awarded the put in at a central scrum.

DK moved the ball to the right, with full back Gavin Forbes joining the line there was space in behind Sutton, which he worked his way into.

With the cover drawn to the threat of Josh Brown on the wing, Gavin was able to collect his own kick over the try line for a well-worked try.

Jamie Hearn the converted for the extra points.

During the quarter of play DK showed what they were capable of when they work as a team and their backs are against the wall, what they are striving to do is find the form consistently.

With a free weekend DK are looking to to build on the remainder of the season, hopefully, selection problems will ease.

Then, on 73 minutes the excellent Sutton Full back Nathan Burchell replied with another good try, though the conversion was

In their next game they face Hinckley at Heathbrook, on February 21.



DK forwards ready to give support during the clash with Sutton Coldfield which they lost

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